



An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta
Health and Safety Authority

Annual Review of Workplace Injuries, Illnesses and Fatalities **2023–2024**



Our Vision:

To deliver healthy and safe working lives and contribute to productive enterprises

Acknowledgements

The Authority is grateful to the Central Statistics Office (CSO) for the provision of data on work related injuries and illnesses that was collected as part of the Labour Force Survey in Q1 2024.

Abbreviations

CSO	Central Statistics Office
ESAW	European Statistics on Accidents at Work
HSA	Health and Safety Authority
LFS	Labour Force Survey
NACE	Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics

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Foreword from the Chief Executive Officer

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) remains committed to its vision of delivering healthy and safe working lives and contributing to productive enterprises. This Annual Review of Workplace Injuries, Illnesses and Fatalities for 2023–2024 reflects both progress and persistent challenges in occupational safety and health and in the safe use of chemicals and products. It is not only a statistical account but also a call to action for every worker, duty-holder and stakeholder to renew their commitment to the prevention of workplace incidents.

Ireland's workforce grew to 2,776,400 in 2024, an increase of 2.6% on the previous year (Source: CSO). With this expansion comes increased responsibility. Employers are legally obliged to report workplace injuries resulting in four or more days' absence, enabling us to monitor trends and target interventions effectively. We rely on data from these reports, the CSO Labour Force Survey, and our own investigations to understand the broader impact on workers, colleagues, and business operations. This data provides the evidence base for our strategies and campaigns. It also reminds us that behind every number is a person – a worker, a family member, a loved one – whose safety and well-being matter.

In 2024, there were 10,441 non-fatal workplace incidents reported to the HSA, which is an increase of 3% from 2023 and 14% above the five-year average. The Human Health and Social Work Activities sector recorded the highest number of incidents (24%) amongst workers, while Education saw the most non-worker injuries (40%). The most common trigger for non-fatal incidents in 2024 was manual handling. This highlights the need for proper ergonomic training in workplaces. Lost working time remains significant; 688,000 days were lost due to injuries and 1,330,000 days due to illnesses, both well above historical averages. Illness rates among females more than doubled since 2019, rising from 9.7 in 2019 to 22.4 in 2024 per 1,000 workers, highlighting the need for gender-sensitive approaches to occupational health.

Tragically, 36 workplace fatalities occurred in 2024. While this represents a welcome decline from the previous year where 43 people lost their lives, each loss is one too many and is profoundly felt. The evidence presented in this report highlights the continued dangers facing workers each day.

The Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing sector remains one of the most hazardous sectors to work in, accounting for one third (12) of all fatalities. This was followed by the Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities sector, which accounted for a further six deaths (three of whom were workers and three non-workers). Five deaths occurred in each of the Construction sector and the Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles sector. In contrast to typical patterns in the past ten years, the Construction sector has been surpassed by a sector other than Agriculture in the number of fatalities recorded. While this is a welcome development for the Construction sector it doesn't diminish the high-risk associated with activity carried out by construction workers.

Loss of control of transport or handling equipment, and falls, together represented over 50% of all workplace fatalities, with breakage or collapse of materials also a significant factor. Half of all fatalities involved vehicles, underscoring the need for continued vigilance in this high-risk area.

We continue to actively collaborate with our sectoral advisory committees to identify innovative and effective interventions to improve worker safety in high-risk areas. In 2024, the HSA continued its farm safety initiatives, promoting safe machinery use, child safety on farms, and awareness around vehicle-related risks. These campaigns included radio and social media outreach, practical guidance, and farm visits during peak seasonal activity. Road safety remains a critical component of workplace safety. Our Driving for Work programme, delivered in partnership with the Road Safety Authority and An Garda Síochána, provided employers with risk assessment templates and training materials to reduce vehicle-related incidents.



Mark Cullen
Chief Executive Officer

Construction Safety Week was an important initiative again in 2024 with a focus on working at height, equipment handling, and psychosocial issues amongst construction workers. The campaign provided toolbox talks, downloadable resources, and video demonstrations to help employers and workers implement best practices.

The HSA expanded its resources on psychosocial risks during 2024, publishing guidance on managing stress and promoting well-being at work. These materials, freely available online, support employers in meeting their obligations under health and safety legislation and reflect the growing importance of mental health in occupational safety.

The Authority also continued its public information campaigns on chemical safety, including updates on REACH and CLP regulations. Guidance documents and e-learning modules were made available to help businesses comply with EU requirements and protect workers from hazardous substances.

The world of work is changing rapidly, and with it, the nature of occupational risks. Automation, remote working, and climate-related hazards present new challenges that require adaptive strategies. In 2024, the HSA highlighted these emerging risks through its online guidance and publications, ensuring that employers have access to the latest information. Our website offers increased digital resources, including e-learning courses, risk assessment templates, and sector-specific guidance. These tools empower employers and employees to take proactive steps toward compliance and prevention. Multilingual resources are available to reach diverse workforces and enhanced digital tools support and simplify compliance processes. Compliance is not just about meeting legal obligations. It is about creating workplaces where safety and health are embedded in everyday practice.

Safety and health are shared responsibilities. We continue to work closely with employers, employees, trade unions, and industry bodies to promote a culture of prevention. Public campaigns such as Construction Safety Week and Driving for Work exemplify this collaborative approach, bringing together multiple stakeholders to deliver consistent, practical messages that save lives.

Our vision remains clear: we strive to deliver healthy and safe working lives and contribute to productive enterprises; and to regulate, enforce, and promote work-related safety, health, and welfare, and the safe use of chemicals and products.

In the year ahead, we will continue to work with all stakeholders to ensure that safety and health are not optional extras, but core values embedded in every workplace. We will continue to offer enterprises a range of tools and supports to enable them to meet their compliance obligations and ensure safe workplaces and business success. Informed by evidence, we will continue our inspection programme, with a focus on areas where the greatest impact can be achieved. We will leverage technology to improve reporting and data analysis, to ensure robust evidence drives our initiatives. We will expand our focus on psychosocial risks, and emerging challenges such as automation and climate-related hazards.

This report is both a reflection and a roadmap. It demonstrates where progress has been made and where urgent action is required. Behind every statistic is a person, a family, and a community affected by loss or injury, which reminds us why prevention must remain at the heart of our work. Together, we can reduce harm, protect lives, and build a culture of prevention that benefits workers, employers, and society.

Mark Cullen
Chief Executive Officer

December 2025



Executive Summary

10,441 Non-Fatal
Incidents reported
to the HSA in 2024



36 Work-Related
Fatal Incidents



688,000 Days lost due
to work-related
injuries (CSO)



1,330,000 Days lost due
to work-related
illnesses (CSO)



Non-Fatal Incidents

HSA Non-Fatal Incident Data

In 2024, 10,441 non-fatal incidents were reported to the Authority, an increase of 3% from the 10,113 reported in 2023¹ and 14% higher than the previous five-year average. It is likely that this can be partly explained by increased levels of employment following COVID-19 related business closures that were in place during 2020 and 2021, with the lower than usual number of workplace injuries in those years still impacting the five-year average. The highest number was reported in the NACE economic sector of Human Health and Social Work Activities, which accounted for 24% of all worker related incidents. For non-worker incidents, the highest number was reported in Education representing 40% of all non-workers injured. Manual handling and slipping, falling were the most common triggers in 2024.

CSO Special Module on Work-Related Injury and Illness

The latest data available from the CSO's module on work-related injury and illness pertains to 2023. During 2023, 688,000 days were lost due to work-related injuries, a 26% increase on the five-year average of 547,600. As in keeping with previous years, the number of days lost to illness is notably higher: in 2023, 1,330,000 days were lost due to work-related illness, up from the five-year average of 1,096,200. In 2023, the NACE sectors with the highest rates of work-related injuries leading to four or more days of absence from work were Construction (16.9 per 1,000 workers), Administrative and Support Service Activities (13.1 per 1,000 workers), Transportation and Storage (12.7 per 1,000 workers) and Industry (11.3 per 1,000 workers). In 2023, male workers reported more work-related injuries leading to four or more days of absence from work (10.1 per 1,000 workers) than female workers (5.5 per 1,000 workers). This is in keeping with the five-year average for 2019–2023, in which male victims had higher rates of work-related injury.

In 2023, the NACE economic sector with the highest rate of work-related illnesses leading to four or more days of absence from work was Human Health and Social Work Activities (34.5 per 1,000 workers), followed by Education (31.8 per 1,000 workers) and Public Administration and Defence (19.3 per 1,000 workers). In 2023, female workers had higher rates of illness (22.4 per 1,000 workers) than male workers (13.3 per 1,000 workers). This is in keeping with the five-year average for 2019–2023. It is worth noting that the rates for female workers have doubled since 2019, while the rates for male workers have increased by 64% over the same timeframe.

Fatal Incidents

There were 36 fatal work-related incidents in Ireland in 2024. Of these, 29 involved worker victims and seven involved non-worker victims. This is a decrease of 16% on the figure of 43 fatal accidents recorded in 2023. The rate of fatal incidents has been declining over the past twenty years from a rate of 2.6 per 100,000 workers in 2004 to 1.3 in 2024. The highest number of fatal incidents occurred in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (11 self-employed persons and one employee) accounting for 33% of all fatal incidents in 2024. Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities accounted for a further 17% of fatalities with incidents occurring to three non-workers and three employees in 2024. The sector with the next highest number of fatal incidents in 2024 was Construction, where three employees and two self-employed persons lost their lives. Non-workers also lost their lives as a result of work activity in Accommodation and Food Service Activities, Transportation and Storage and Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles. Of the 36 fatal incidents in 2024, 32 (89%) occurred to male victims and four (11%) occurred to female victims. Over half of all fatal incidents involved victims aged 55 years or more, with eleven victims aged 55–64 years (31%) and 11 victims aged 65 years or more (31%). In 2024, two of the 36 work-related fatal incidents involved children. The most common triggers associated with fatal incidents in 2024 were loss of control of transport or handling equipment (13) and falls (6, of which 5 were falls from height) which together accounted for 53% of fatal incidents.

¹ This figure was reported as 10,096 in the 2022-2023 Annual Review of Workplace Injury, Illness and Fatality Statistics but some late reporting of additional incidents has brought this to 10,113 at the time of this report.



Introduction

The Health and Safety Authority's Annual Review of Workplace Injury, Illness and Fatality Statistics presents the most recently available data on work-related fatalities, injuries and illnesses in Ireland. There are three key sources of this data:

- 1) the Authority maintains a database of non-fatal incidents reported to it,
- 2) the Authority has a comprehensive register of all work-related incidents resulting in a fatality and
- 3) the Central Statistics Office (CSO) gathers data on work-related injury and illness as a module in its Labour Force Survey (LFS).

However, there are limitations to this data. The HSA database of non-fatal incidents is limited due to under-reporting in certain sectors. The CSO data, on the other hand, is derived from a survey that contains less detailed information and for which the sample size is small.² As a result, the number of respondents reporting work-related injuries and illnesses in some economic sectors can be very low. Thus, results should be interpreted with caution.

Data Sources and Methodology

HSA Non-Fatal Incident Data

HSA data on fatal and non-fatal incidents in this report pertains to 2024. The Authority collects data on incidents at work as part of its requirement to comply with the Framework Directive 89/391/EEC (1) on measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at work. The European Statistics on Accidents at Work (ESAW) methodology specifies the information that is to be collected by the Authority.

In addition, under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2016, all employers and self-employed persons are legally obliged to report the injury of an employee as a result of an incident while at work that causes workers to be absent from work for four or more days. Work-related incidents to non-workers that lead to the victim being taken from the location of the incident for treatment in a medical facility must also be reported to the Authority. Incidents reported in this way include important details such as the trigger (i.e., the cause of the incident) and the type of injury.

² The sample size is 526.

However, it is likely that there is a degree of underreporting of work-related incidents in certain sectors, with smaller enterprises and self-employed people less likely to report incidents than larger enterprises. Nonetheless, HSA non-fatal data provides key insights about incidents occurring in Irish workplaces every year.

Non-fatal incidents are sometimes reported to the Authority months after the incident occurred. This means that the number of incidents reported in this document is subject to change. For example, the number of non-fatal incidents for 2023 was reported as 10,096 in the 2022-2023 Annual Review of Workplace Injury, Illness and Fatality Statistics, but some late reporting of additional incidents has brought this to 10,113 at the time of this report.

CSO Module on Work-Related Injury and Illness in the Labour Force Survey

Each year the CSO conducts a special module on work-related injuries and illnesses in the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Households are surveyed about work-related injuries or illnesses that occurred during the previous 12 months. The most recent survey was carried out in Q1 2024; hence, the data relates to 2023.

This CSO data mainly relates to injuries or illnesses leading to four or more days absence from work, described as 4+ day injuries or illnesses in this review. However, the CSO data also provides some information on injuries and illnesses that involved no loss of work. In this review, Figure 1.13, Figure 1.14 and Figure 1.15 involve this broader category, described as 0+ day injuries or illnesses.

The CSO survey includes less detailed information regarding the circumstances surrounding the incident than the HSA data on work-related incidents.

Although the sample size for this particular module of the LFS is low, it is based on a representative sample of the population and, as such, it sheds light on the incidence of work-related injuries that may be underreported to the Authority. The survey also includes some important information about work-related illnesses.

HSA Fatal Incident Data

All work-related fatal incidents reported to the Authority are investigated by inspectors who compile detailed reports and are coded using European Statistics on Accidents at Work (ESAW) methodology.

On occasion, fatal incidents can be notified to the Authority some months after they occur. For example, the victim of an incident can suffer injuries that later lead to death, or a fatal incident may be determined to be work-related some time afterwards. This means that the number of incidents reported here is subject to change.

CSO Labour Force Survey Working Population

To compare the prevalence of work-related incidents and illnesses in different economic sectors, and over time, rates of work-related incidents and illnesses are calculated as a proportion of workers. For non-fatal incidents and illnesses, the rates are calculated per 1,000 workers, while for fatal incidents the rates are calculated per 100,000 workers. This is because there are many more non-fatal incidents and illnesses than fatal.

The CSO's Labour Force Survey gives the number of workers in the economy each quarter, therefore rates have been calculated using the average level of employment across the four quarters of the relevant year.



1



Non-Fatal Injury and Illness Statistics

Non-Fatal Injuries Reported to the HSA

In 2024, 10,441 non-fatal injuries were reported to the Authority, an increase of 3% from the 10,113 reported in 2023³ and 14% higher than the previous five-year average. It is likely that this can be partly explained by increased levels of employment following COVID-19 related business closures that were in place during 2020 and 2021, with the lower than usual number of workplace injuries in those years still impacting the five-year average.

Of the 10,441 non-fatal injuries reported in 2024, 96% related to workers. The highest number was reported in the NACE economic sector of Human Health and Social Work Activities, which accounted for 24% of all incidents involving workers. For non-worker incidents, the highest number was reported in Education representing 40% of all non-workers injured. For more detail, see Table 3.1 in the Appendix.

In 2024, **10,441** non-fatal injuries were reported to the Authority, an increase of **3%** from the **10,113** reported in 2023.



³ This figure was reported as 10,096 in the 2022-2023 Annual Review of Workplace Injury, Illness and Fatality Statistics but some late reporting of additional incidents has brought this to 10,113 at the time of this report.

Table 1.1:

Injuries reported by economic sector, 2024 (HSA)

NACE Sector	Worker	%	Non-worker	%	Total	%
Q Human Health and Social Work Activities	2,413	24%	15	4%	2,428	23%
C Manufacturing	1,479	15%	4	1%	1,483	14%
H Transportation and Storage	1,047	10%	79	20%	1,126	11%
G Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles	1,066	11%	89	23%	1,155	11%
O Public Administration and Defence; Compulsory Social Security	872	9%	5	1%	877	8%
P Education	603	6%	155	40%	758	7%
F Construction	730	7%	12	3%	742	7%
N Administrative and Support Service Activities	521	5%	4	1%	525	5%
S Other Service Activities	284	3%	2	1%	286	3%
M Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	184	2%	3	1%	187	2%
E Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities	171	2%	5	1%	176	2%
I Accommodation and Food Service Activities	158	2%	5	1%	163	2%
A Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	138	1%	2	1%	140	1%
K Financial and Insurance Activities	124	1%	3	1%	127	1%
J Information and Communication	76	1%	1	0%	77	1%
L Real Estate Activities	51	1%	0	0%	51	0%
B Mining and Quarrying	51	1%	0	0%	51	0%
R Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	44	0%	2	1%	46	0%
D Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply	43	0%	0	0%	43	0%
Total	10,055	96%	386	4%	10,441	100.0%

Most victims of non-fatal injuries reported to the Authority were workers (96%). It is likely that there is a degree of under-reporting of incidents by self-employed people and small businesses. There were 386 incidents involving non-workers reported, representing 4% of all injuries.

Table 1.2:

Number of reported non-fatal injuries by employment status, 2024 (HSA)

Employee Type	Count	%
Employee	9,839	94%
Non-worker	386	4%
Self-employed	110	1%
Trainee	56	1%
Employment status unknown	47	0%
Family worker	3	0%
Total	10,441	100%

The trigger is the term used to describe the cause of an incident. Figure 1.1 shows the top five triggers of non-fatal incidents reported to the Authority in 2024. The single most common trigger was manual handling which accounted for 3,474 non-fatal incidents (33%). The exact trigger was not listed for 17% of incidents. Slipping, falling accounted for 24%, loss of control of object, machine, vehicle etc. for 11% and violence, aggression, shock, violence caused 7% of incidents.

Figure 1.1 also shows the average number of incidents over the five-year period 2020–2024 for the most common triggers, with falls and manual handling the most common triggers in recent years.

Figure 1.2 shows the top three triggers for the six economic sectors reporting the highest number of non-fatal injuries to the Authority, where a clear trigger was identified. Manual handling and slipping, falling were among the top two triggers for all of the major economic sectors.

Figure 1.1:

Top five reported non-fatal injuries by trigger, 2024 and five-year average 2020–2024 (HSA)

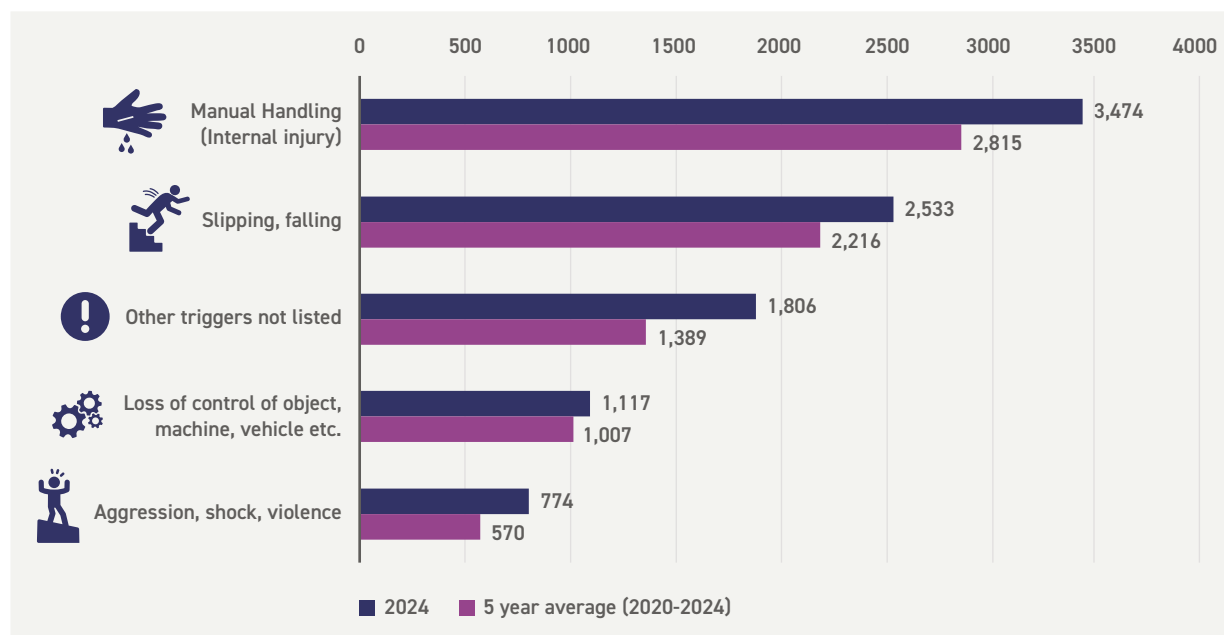


Figure 1.2a:

Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Human Health and Social Work Activities, 2024 (HSA)

Human Health and Social Work Activities

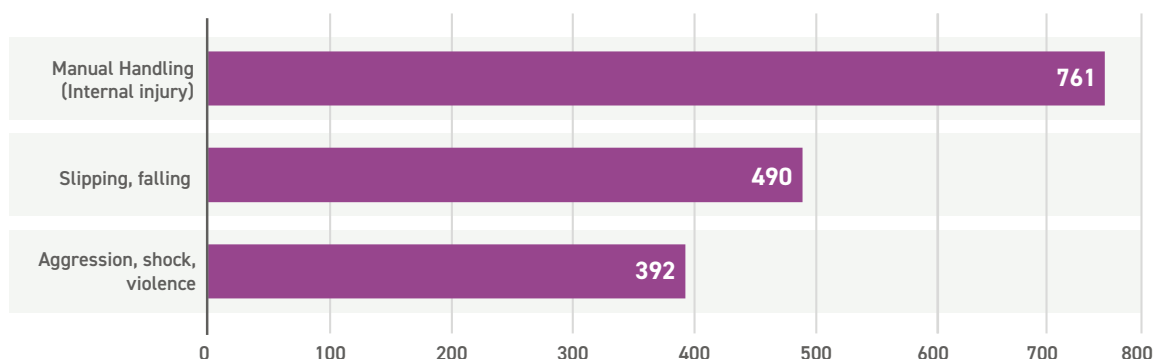


Figure 1.2b:

Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Industry⁴, 2024 (HSA)

Industry

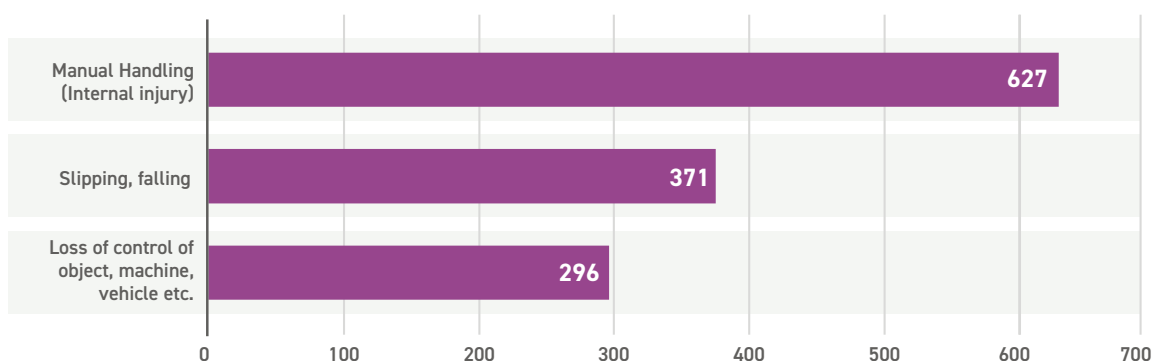
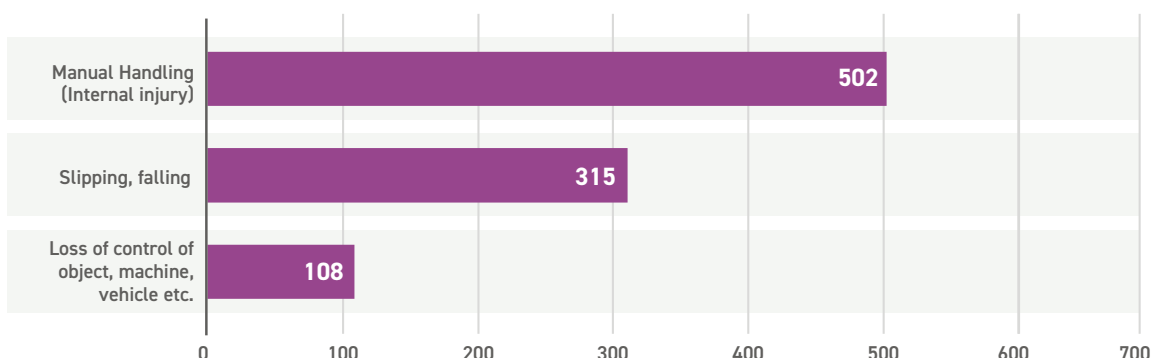


Figure 1.2c:

Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Wholesale and Retail Trade, 2024 (HSA)

Wholesale and Retail Trade



⁴ Industry represents a combination of four NACE economic sectors: B – Mining and quarrying, C – Manufacturing, D – Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, and E – Water supply and waste management.

Figure 1.2d:

Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Transportation and Storage, 2024 (HSA)

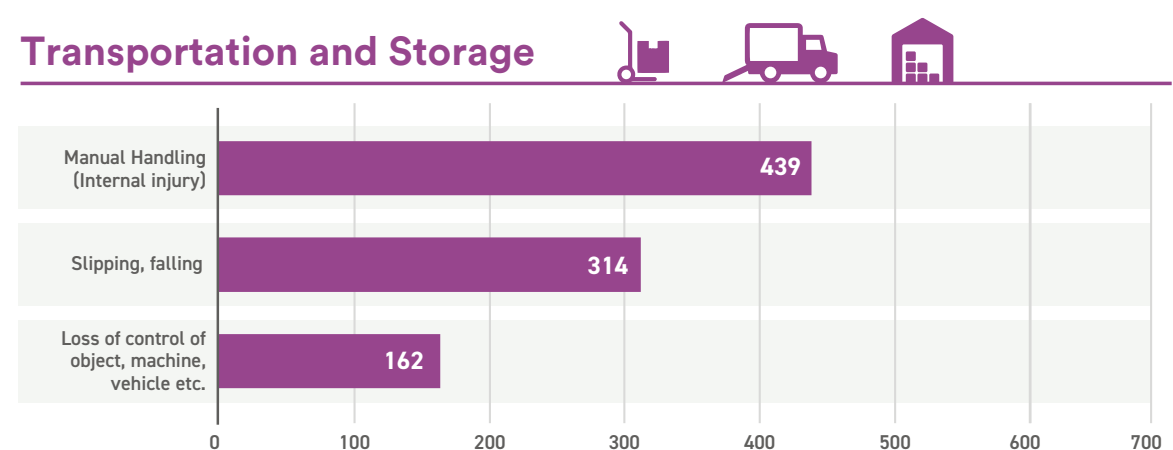


Figure 1.2e:

Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Public Administration and Defence, 2024 (HSA)

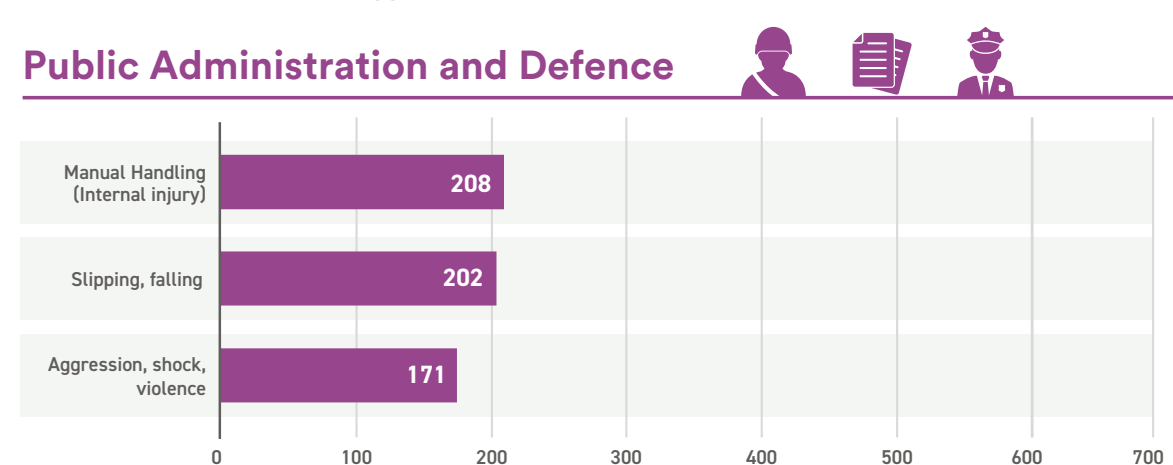


Figure 1.2f:

Top three reported non-fatal triggers in Construction, 2024 (HSA)

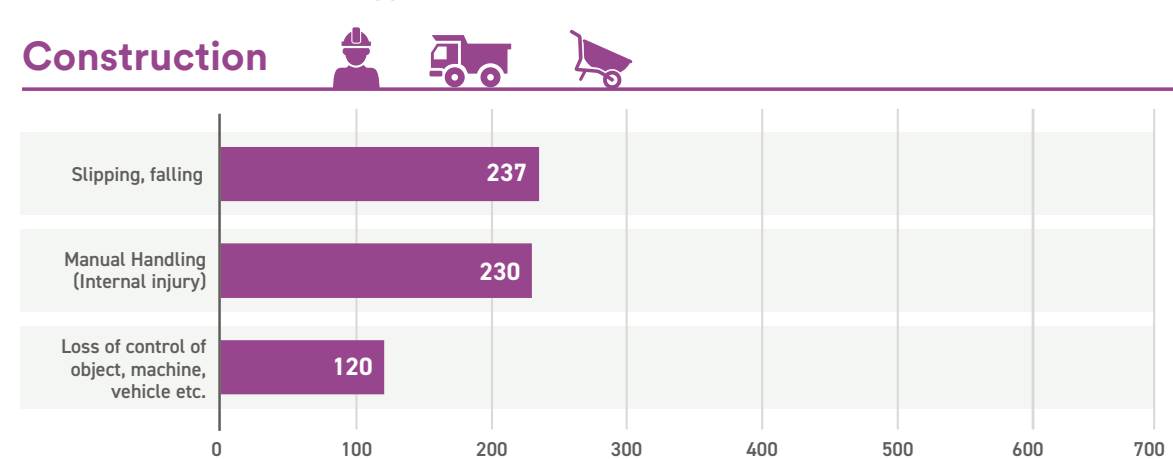
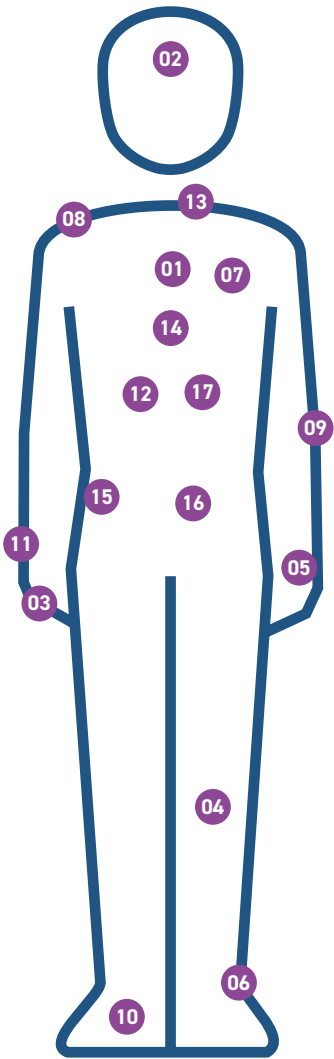


Figure 1.3:

Most injured body parts in workers and non-workers in 2024 (HSA)

	Body Part	Worker	Non-Worker
01	Back, including spine and vertebra in the back	18%	3%
02	Head	11%	25%
03	Finger(s)	10%	10%
04	Leg, including knee	9%	8%
05	Hand	8%	5%
06	Ankle	7%	6%
07	Other body parts not listed	6%	12%
08	Shoulder and shoulder joints	6%	5%
09	Arm, including elbow	6%	5%
10	Foot	5%	2%
11	Wrist	4%	4%
12	Multiple sites of the body affected	3%	6%
13	Neck, including spine and vertebra in the neck	2%	1%
14	Chest area including organs	2%	1%
15	Hip and hip joint	1%	4%
16	Pelvic and abdominal area including organs	1%	2%
17	Other	2%	1%



The most injured body part for workers in 2024 was the back, associated with 18% of non-fatal incidents reported to the Authority. This is in keeping with recent years, with back injuries comprising 21% of all non-fatal injuries reported to the Authority between 2020 and 2024. Non-fatal back injuries were caused primarily by manual handling. The most injured body part for non-workers was the head accounting for 25% of all injuries.

Most non-fatal incidents reported to the Authority caused fewer than 14 days of work lost. In 2024, 62% of all reported non-fatal incidents led to 4-6 days (30%) or 7-13 days (33%) of lost work; this is in keeping with the average for 2020–2024 (Figure 1.4).

Figure 1.4:

Percentage of non-fatal injuries by absence from work, 2024 and five-year average 2020–2024 (HSA)

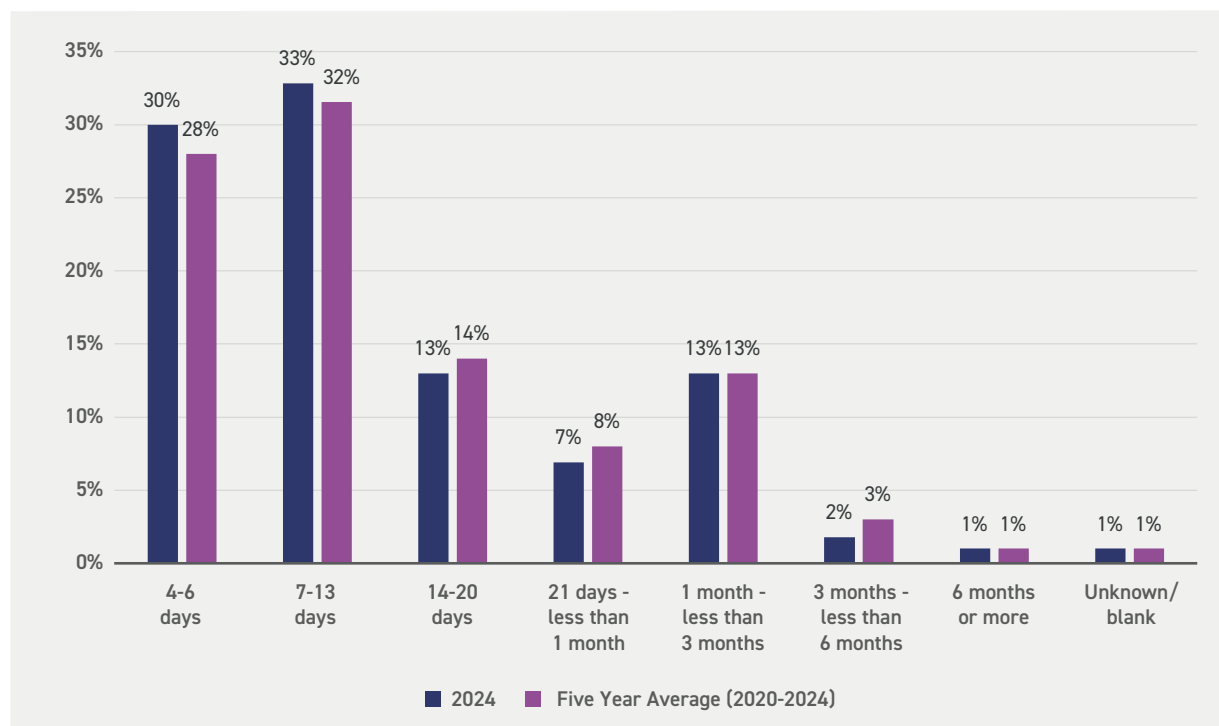
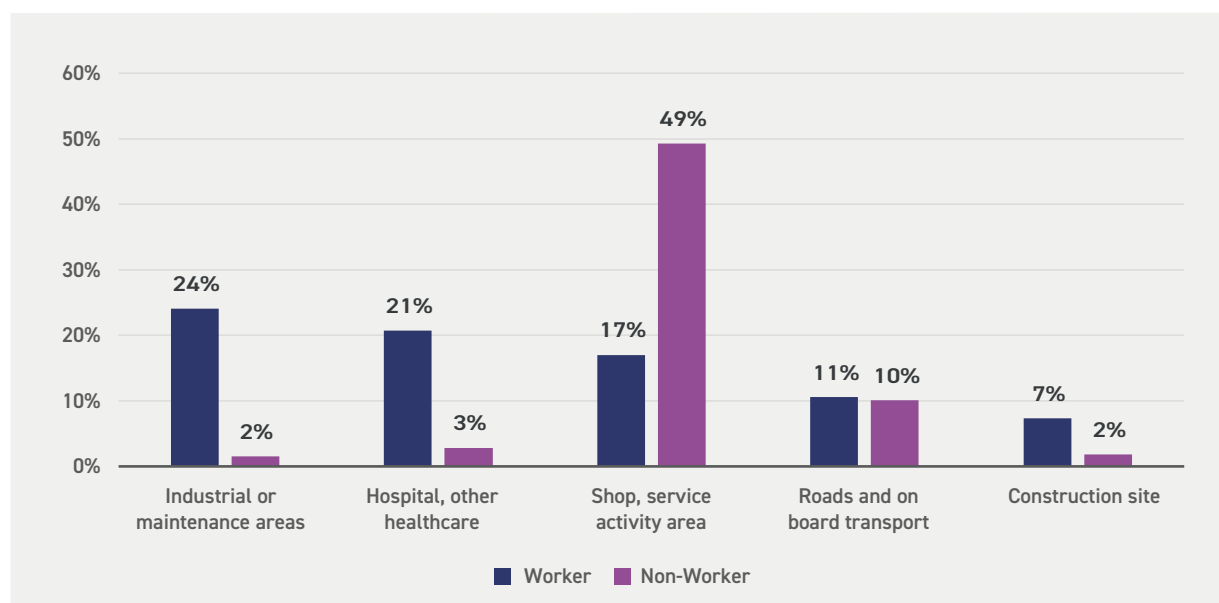


Figure 1.5 shows the top five working environments where incidents occurred to workers and non-workers, where an environment was specified. Among worker victims, 24% of reported non-fatal incidents occurred in production areas/factories/workshops, 21% occurred in hospitals or other healthcare areas and 17% occurred in shops or service activity areas. Most non-worker incidents occurred in shops or service activity areas (49%) and roads or on board transport (10%).

Figure 1.5:

Top five working environments for worker and non-worker incidents in 2024 (HSA)



CSO Module results

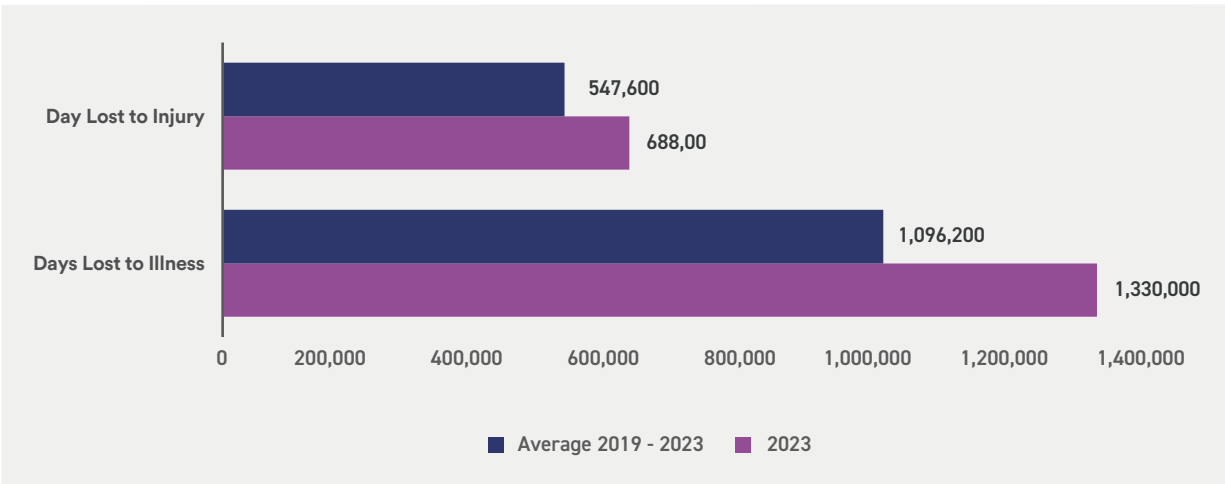
Each year the CSO undertakes a special module of the Labour Force Survey on work-related injuries and illnesses. The most recent data available from this survey relates to 2023. During 2023, 688,000 days were lost due to work-related injuries, 26% higher than the five-year average of 547,600. As in keeping with previous years, the number of days lost to illness is notably higher: in 2023, 1,330,000 days were lost due to work-related illness, up from the five-year average of 1,096,200. For more detail, see Table 3.2 in the Appendix.

In 2023, the NACE sectors with the highest rates of work-related injuries leading to four or more days of absence from work were Construction (16.9 per 1,000 workers), Administrative and Support Service Activities (13.1 per 1,000 workers), Transportation and Storage (12.7 per 1,000 workers) and Industry (11.3 per 1,000 workers).⁵

Figure 1.7 shows that sectors like Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities (2.5 per 1,000 workers in 2019–2023) and Information and Communication (1.6 per 1,000 workers in 2019–2023) have had broadly lower rates of injury in recent years. No non-fatal injuries were reported in Financial, Insurance and Real Estate Activities in 2023; this means that no respondents to the Labour Force Survey module working in that sector reported work-related injuries leading to four or more days absence from work.

Figure 1.6:

Days lost due to work-related illnesses and injuries in 2023 and five-year average 2019–2023 (CSO)



5 Due to the small sample size, rates can fluctuate substantially from year to year for some sectors.

Figure 1.7:

Rate of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers by NACE economic sector in 2023 and five-year average 2019–2023 (CSO)

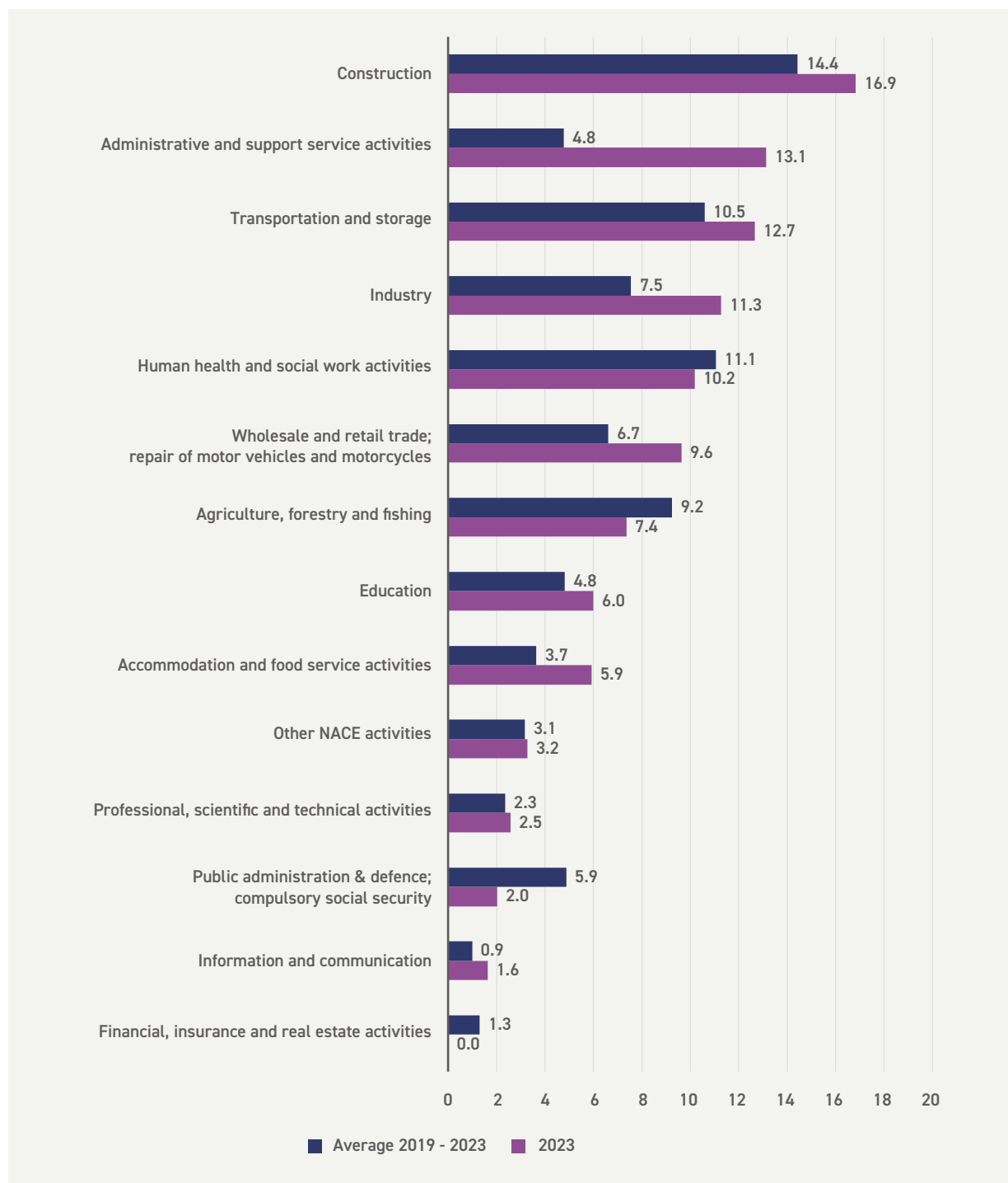


Figure 1.8 shows the change in rates of work-related injuries causing four or more days of absence from work over a ten-year period in various sectors. There can be considerable fluctuation from year to year in some sectors.

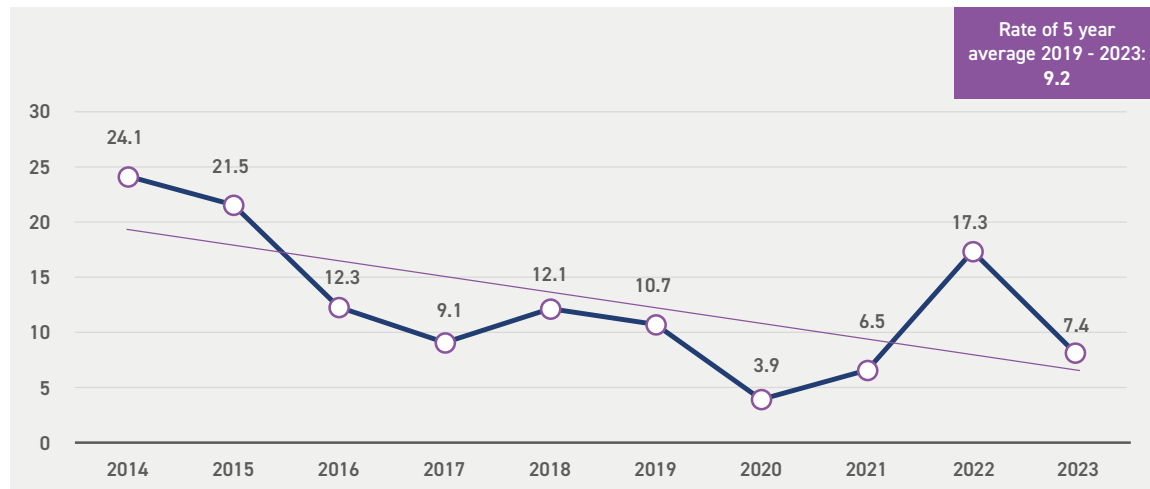
Note, comparisons between 2020 and 2019 should be interpreted with caution as the 2019 data was derived using the Eurostat special module⁶ (which is conducted approx. every seven years) rather than the usual CSO module. The trendlines show that rates are generally declining, with the exception of Construction and Human Health and Social Work Activities.

⁶ The Eurostat module contained some different questions to the usual CSO module. In addition, respondents could only respond on behalf of themselves and not on behalf of others in the household, as is normally the case.

Figure 1.8:

Rate of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers, 2019 to 2023 (CSO)

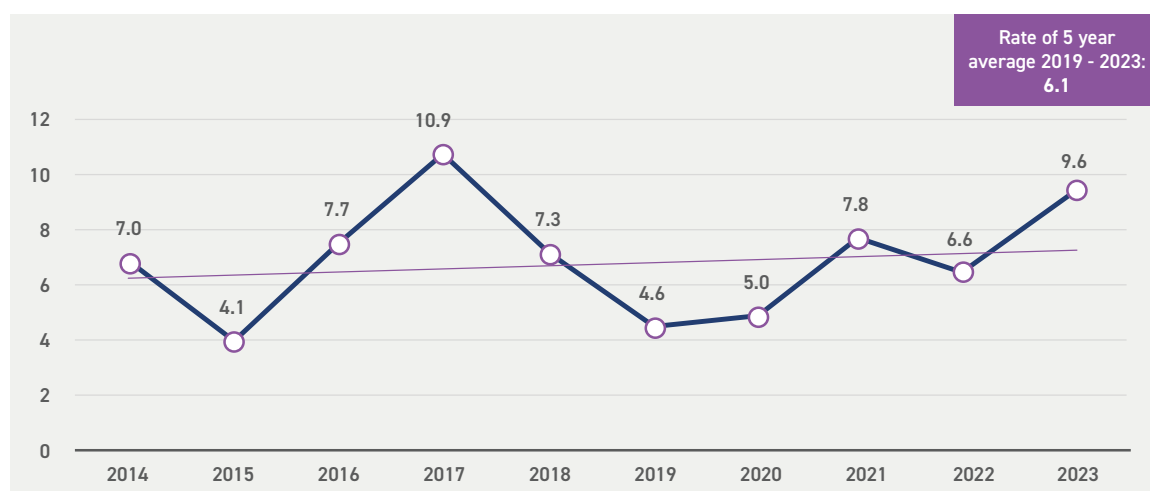
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing



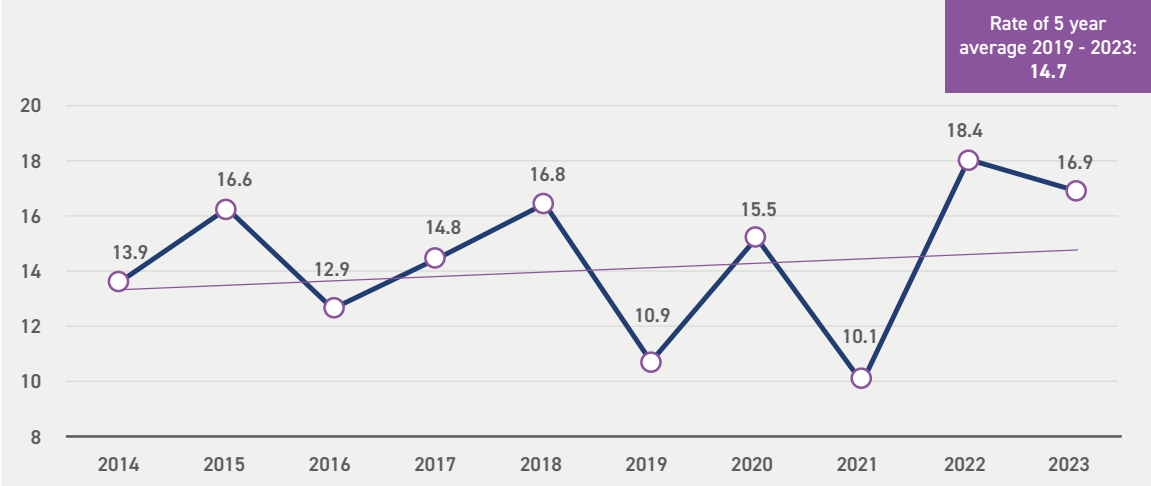
Transportation and Storage



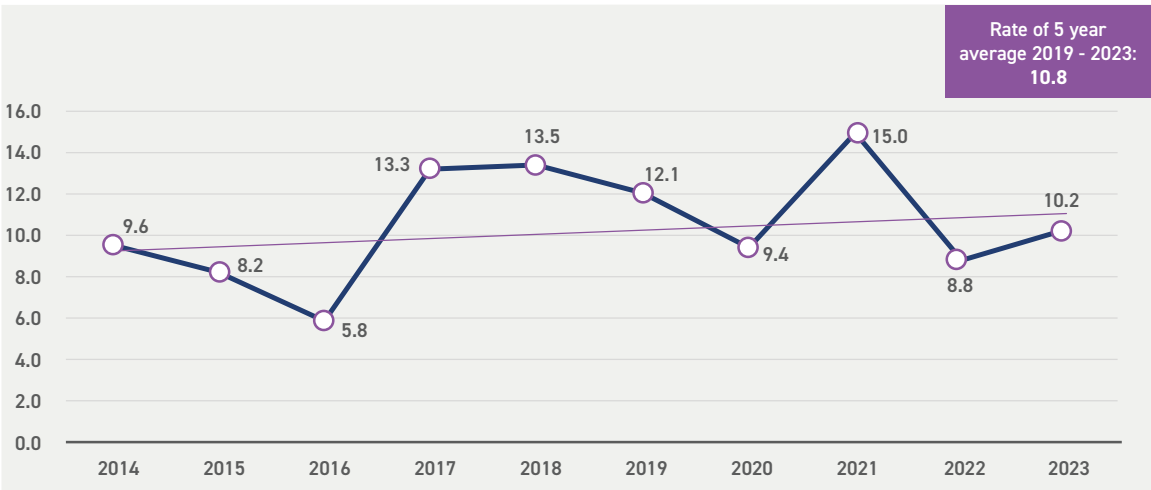
Wholesale and Retail Trade



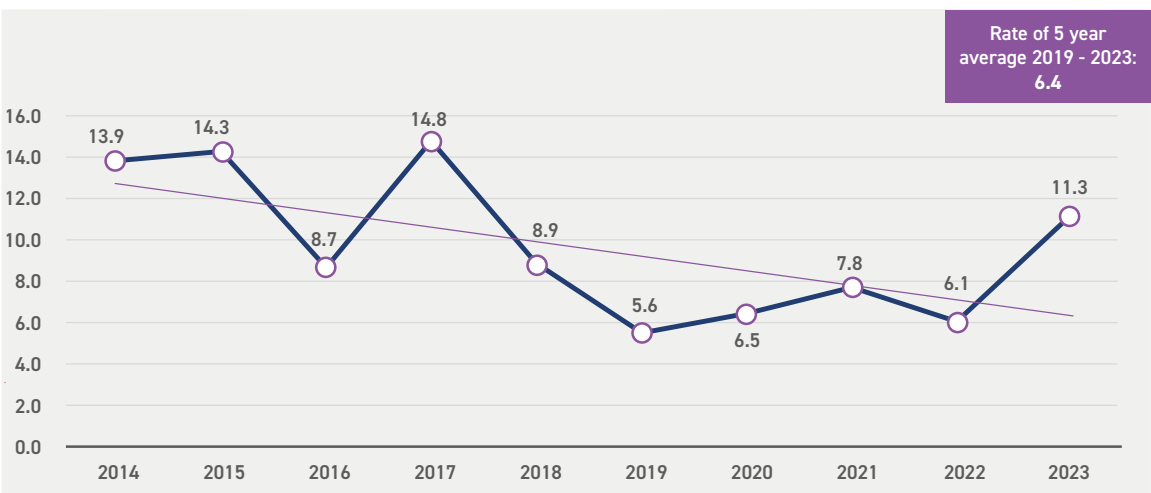
Construction



Human Health and Social Work Activities



Industry



In 2023, male workers reported more work-related injuries leading to four or more days of absence from work (10.1 per 1,000 workers) than female workers (5.5 per 1,000 workers). This is in keeping with the five-year average for 2019–2023, in which male victims had higher rates of work-related injury.

Figure 1.9:
Rate of 4+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers by gender in 2023 and five-year average 2019–2023 (CSO)

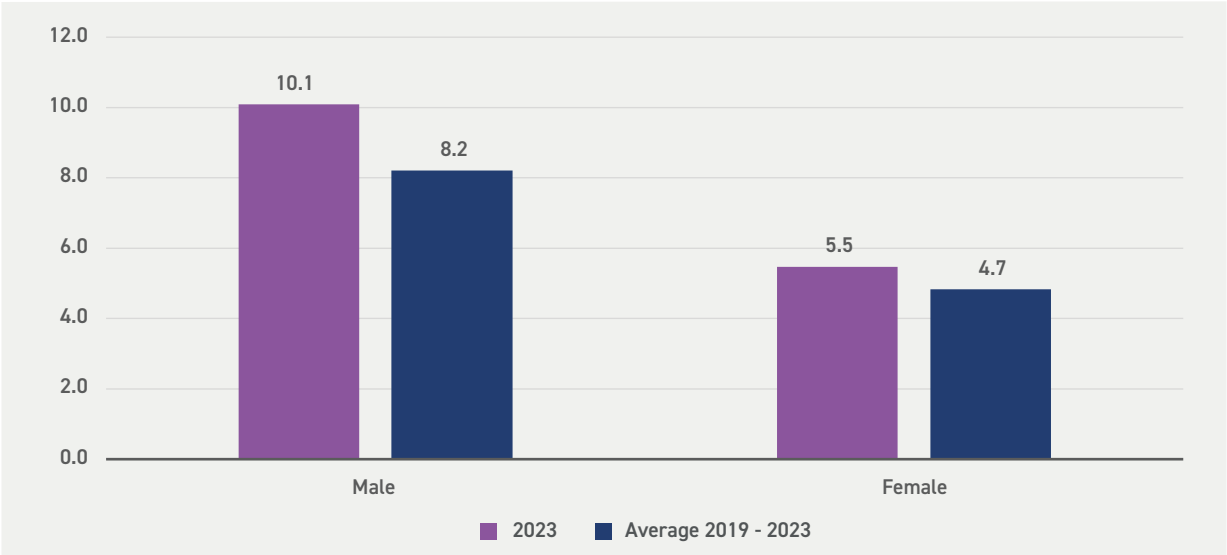
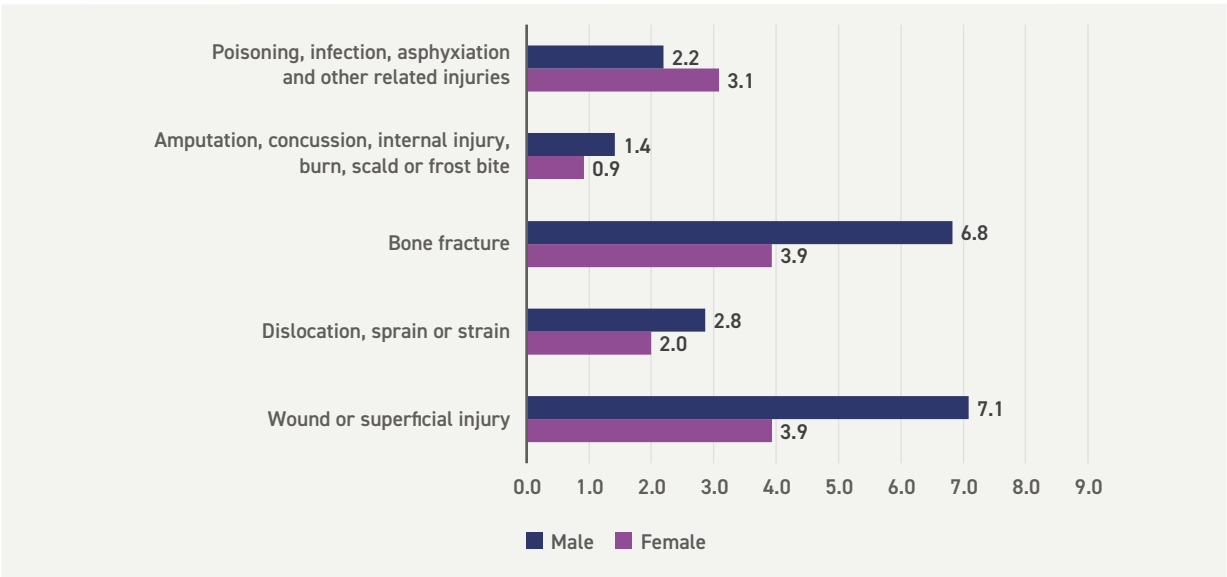


Figure 1.10 shows the kinds of injuries experienced by male and female workers. Male workers had higher rates of injury for each of the categories compared with female workers, with the exception of the category including poisoning, infection, asphyxiation and other related injuries.

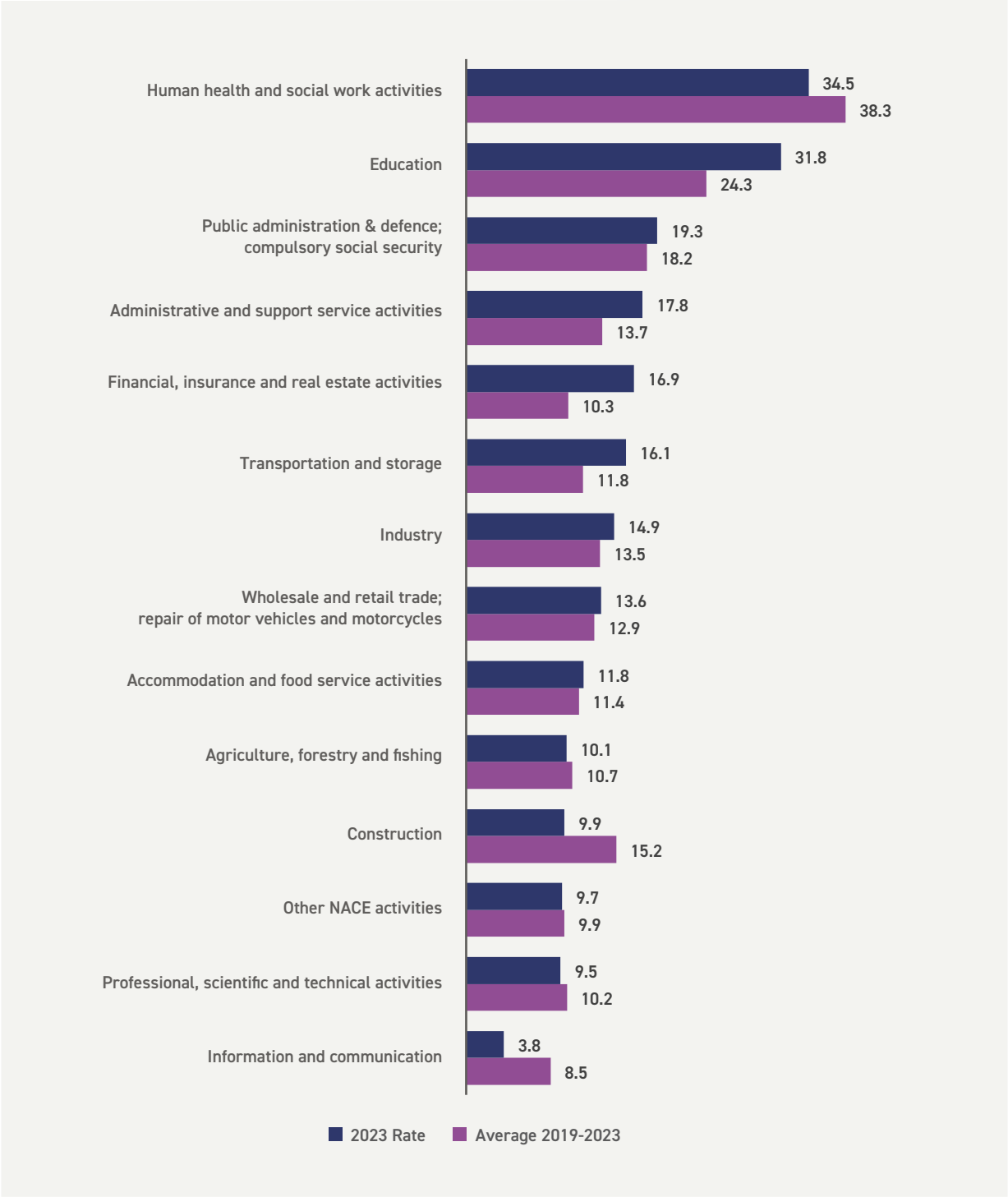
Figure 1.10:
Rate of 0+ day work-related injuries per 1,000 workers by gender and injury type in 2023 (CSO)



In 2023, the NACE economic sector with the highest rate of work-related illnesses leading to four or more days of absence from work was Human Health and Social Work Activities (34.5 per 1,000 workers), followed by Education (31.8 per 1,000 workers) and Public Administration and Defence (19.3 per 1,000 workers). Human Health and Social Work Activities has had the highest rate of illness in four of the last five-years.

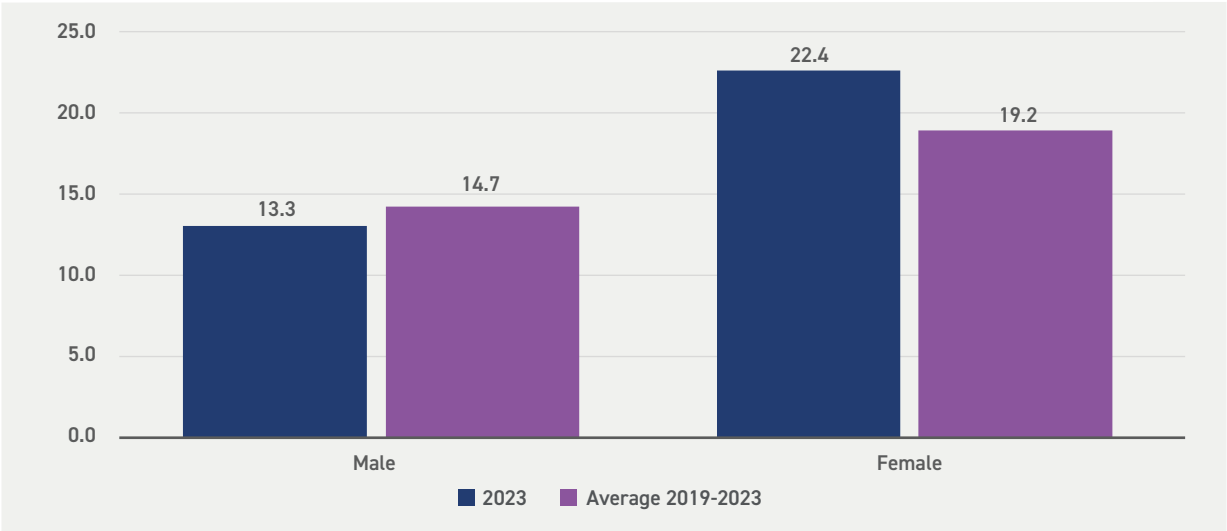
Figure 1.11:

Rate of 4+ day work-related illnesses per 1,000 workers by NACE economic sector in 2023 and five-year average 2019–2023 (CSO)



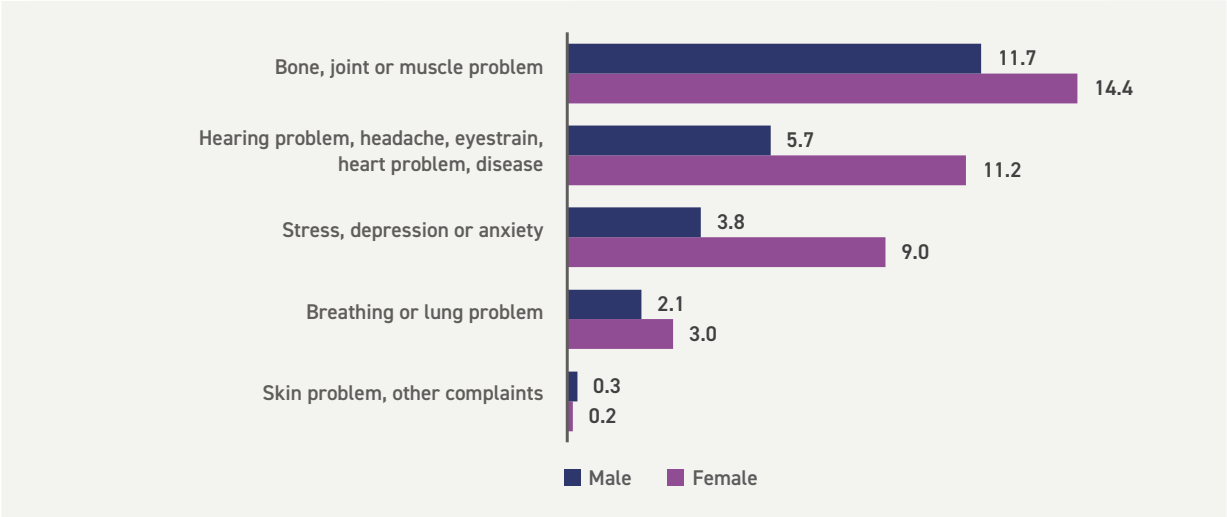
In 2023, female workers had higher rates of illness (22.4 per 1,000 workers) than male workers (13.3 per 1,000 workers). This is in keeping with the five-year average for 2019–2023. It is worth noting that the rates for female workers have more than doubled since 2019, while the rates for male workers have increased by 64% over the same timeframe.

Figure 1.12:
Rate of 4+ day work-related illnesses per 1,000 workers by gender in 2023 and five-year average 2019–2023 (CSO)



In 2023, female workers had higher rates of work-related illnesses for most categories captured in this survey, most notably stress, depression or anxiety (9.0 per 1,000 workers), compared with male workers (3.8 per 1,000 workers). It is worth noting that the rates for skin problems and related issues were much lower in 2023 as compared with the previous ten-year period. However, due to the small sample size, results should be interpreted with caution.

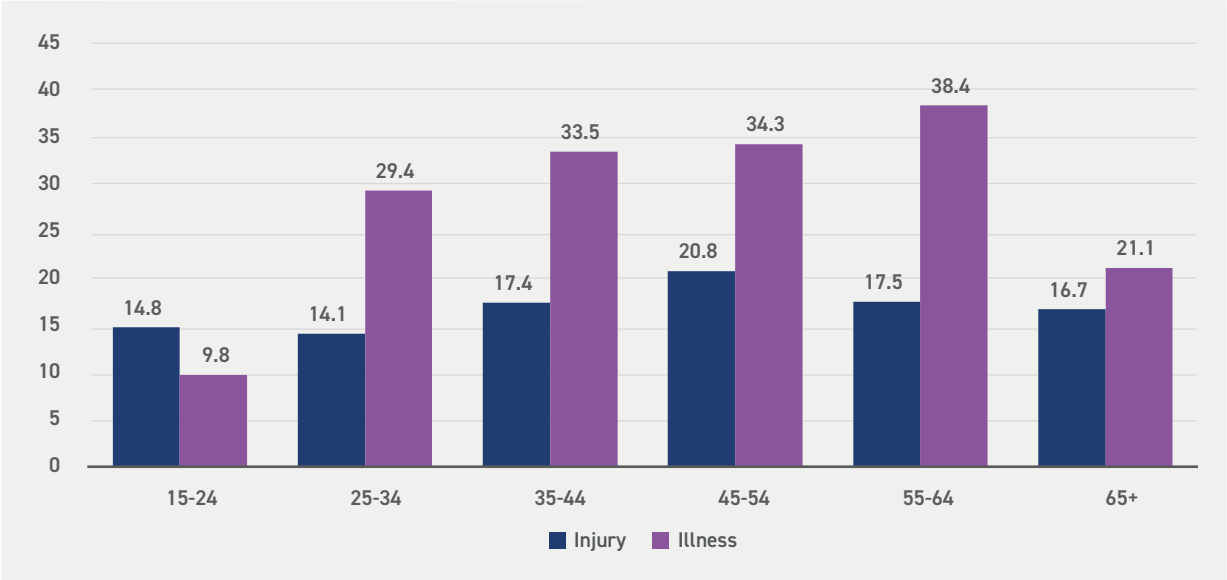
Figure 1.13:
Rate of 0+ day work-related illnesses per 1,000 workers by gender and illness type in 2023 (CSO)



Rates of work-related injury were highest for the 45-54 age group (20.8 per 1,000 workers). The highest rate of work-related illness occurred in the 55-64 years group (38.4 per 1,000 workers).

Figure 1.14:

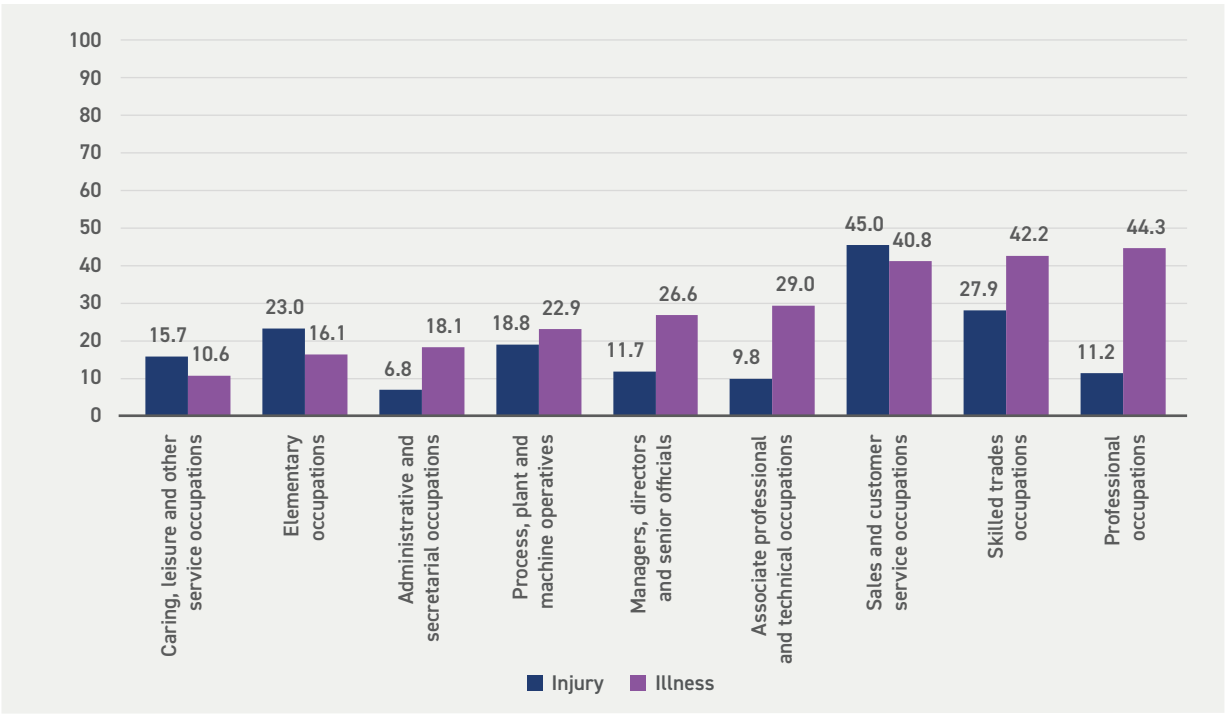
Rate of 0+ day work-related injuries and illnesses per 1,000 workers by age group in 2023 (CSO)



The highest rates of injuries occurred to those working in sales and customer service occupations and skilled trade occupations. High rates of illness also occurred in these categories, in addition to professional occupations.

Figure 1.15:

Rate of 0+ day work-related injuries and illnesses per 1,000 workers by occupation of victim in 2023 (CSO)





The highest rates of injury in 2023 were in the South-East region of Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford and Waterford (24.0 per 1,000 workers), while the lowest rates of injury were in the Border region (10.9 per 1,000 workers). The highest rates of illness were in the Mid-West (36.5 per 1,000 workers), while the lowest rates were in the West (21.1 per 1,000 workers).

Table 1.3:
Rate of 0+ day work-related injuries and illnesses per 1,000 workers by NUTS region in 2023 (CSO)

	Injury	Illness
South-East	24.0	30.2
South-West	21.7	34.6
Mid-East	19.9	27.2
Dublin	16.8	32.5
Midlands	15.5	32.3
Mid-West	14.8	36.5
West	10.9	21.1
Border	10.9	22.7



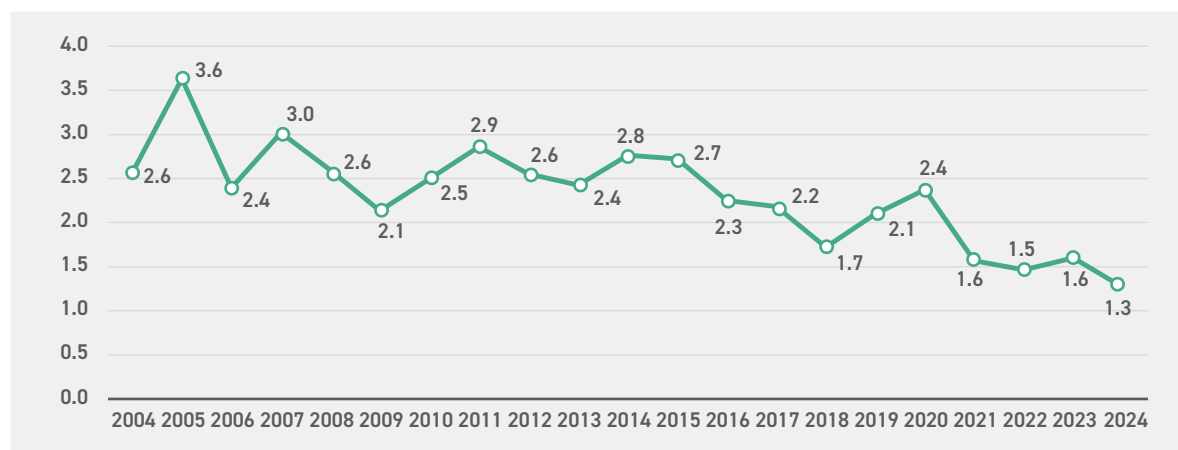
Fatal Injury Statistics

There were 36 fatal work-related incidents in Ireland in 2024. Of these, 29 involved worker victims and seven involved non-worker victims. This is a decrease of 16% on the figure of 43 fatal accidents recorded in 2023. When considering the rate of fatal accidents, there has been a slight decrease from 1.6 in 2023 to 1.3 in 2024.

Figure 2.1 shows that the rate of fatal incidents has been declining over the past twenty years from a rate of 2.6 per 100,000 workers in 2004 to 1.3 in 2024. The average rate over the five-year period 2020-2024 is 1.7.

Figure 2.1:

Rate of fatal work-related incidents per 100,000 workers, 2004-2024



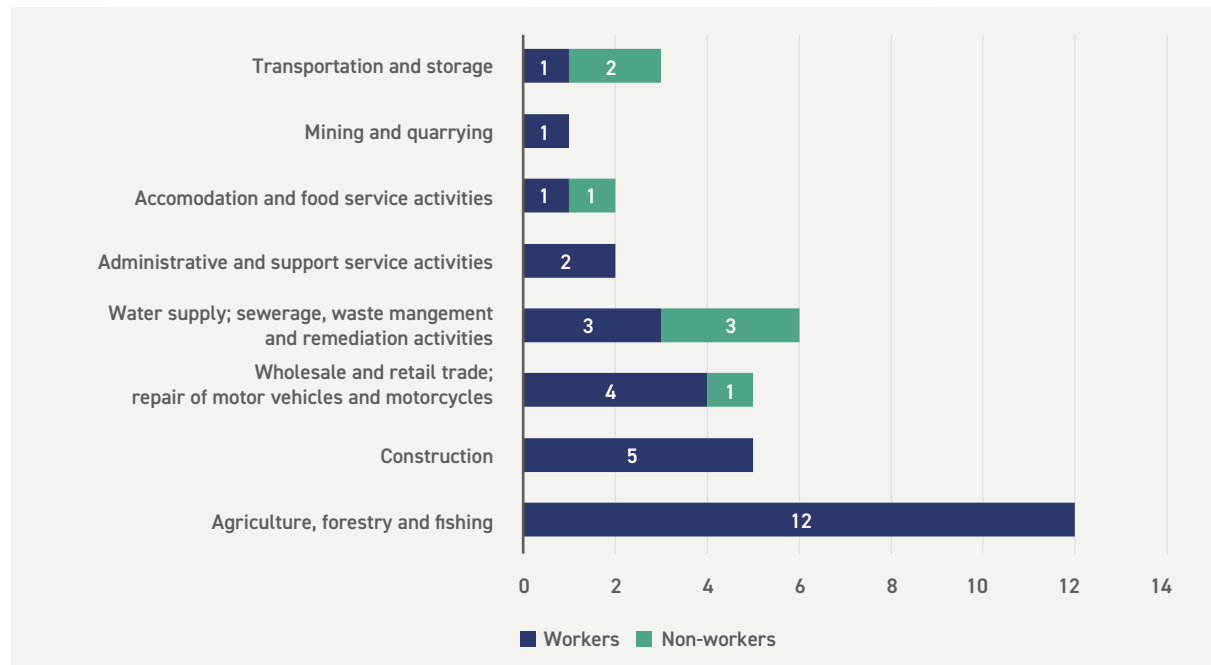


The highest number of fatal incidents occurred in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing

The highest number of fatal incidents occurred in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (11 self-employed persons and one employee) accounting for 33% of all fatal incidents in 2024. Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities accounted for a further 17% of fatalities with incidents occurring to three workers and three non-workers in 2024. The sector with the next highest number of fatal incidents in 2024 was Construction, where three employees and two self-employed persons lost their lives. Non-workers also lost their lives as a result of work activity in Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles, Transportation and Storage and Accommodation and Food Service Activities.

Figure 2.2:

Number of fatal work-related incidents to workers and non-workers by NACE economic sector 2024 (HSA)



Of the 36 work-related fatal incident victims, 18 (50%) were self-employed, 11 (31%) were employees and seven were non-workers (19%).

Over nine in every ten work-related fatal incident victims in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing were self-employed (11, 92%). Two victims in Construction were self-employed (40%) and three were employees (60%). Altogether, work-related fatal incidents involved non-workers in three economic sectors. For more details on fatal incidents by economic sector in each year from 2015 to 2024, see Table 3.3 in the Appendix.

Figure 2.3:

Percentage of fatal work-related incidents by employment status of victim, 2024 (HSA)

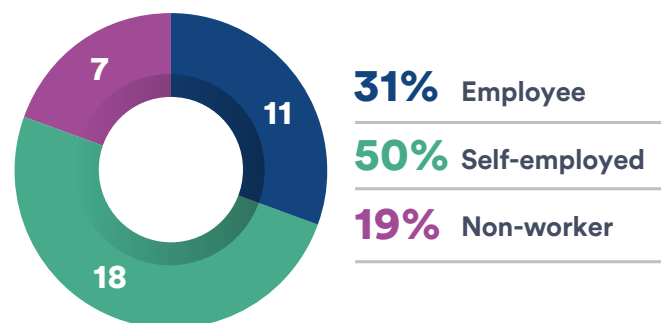


Figure 2.4:
Number of fatal work-related incidents by employment status of victim and NACE economic sector, 2024 (HSA)



Figure 2.5 shows the trend of fatal incident rates per 100,000 workers in four key economic sectors since 2013.

Figure 2.5a:
Rate of fatal work-related incidents per 100,000 workers in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, 2014–2024 (HSA)

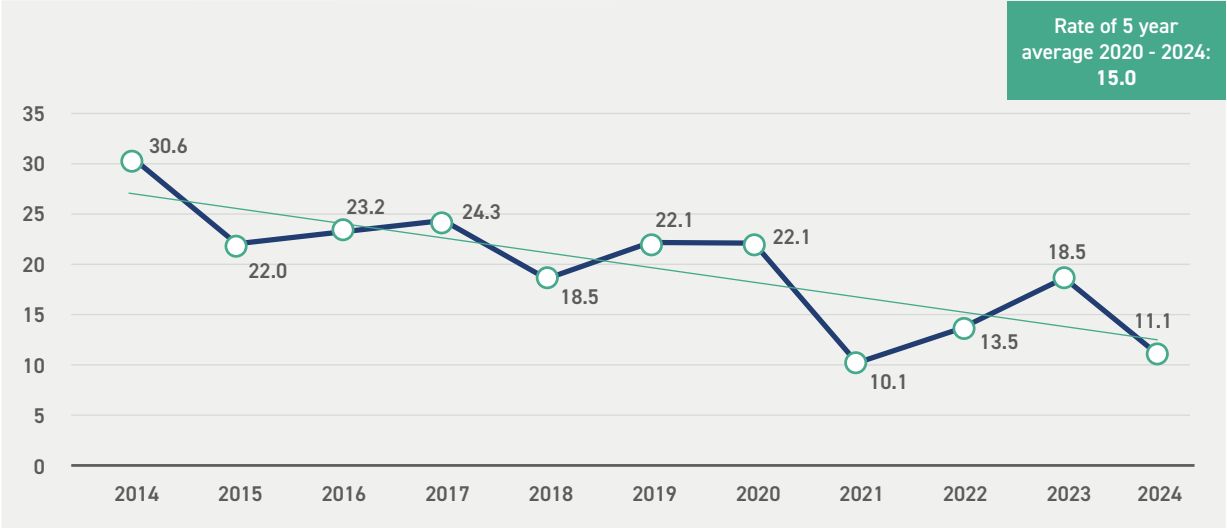


Figure 2.5b:

Rate of fatal work-related incidents per 100,000 workers in Construction, 2014–2024 (HSA)



Figure 2.5c:

Rate of fatal work-related incidents per 100,000 workers in Transportation and Storage, 2014–2024 (HSA)

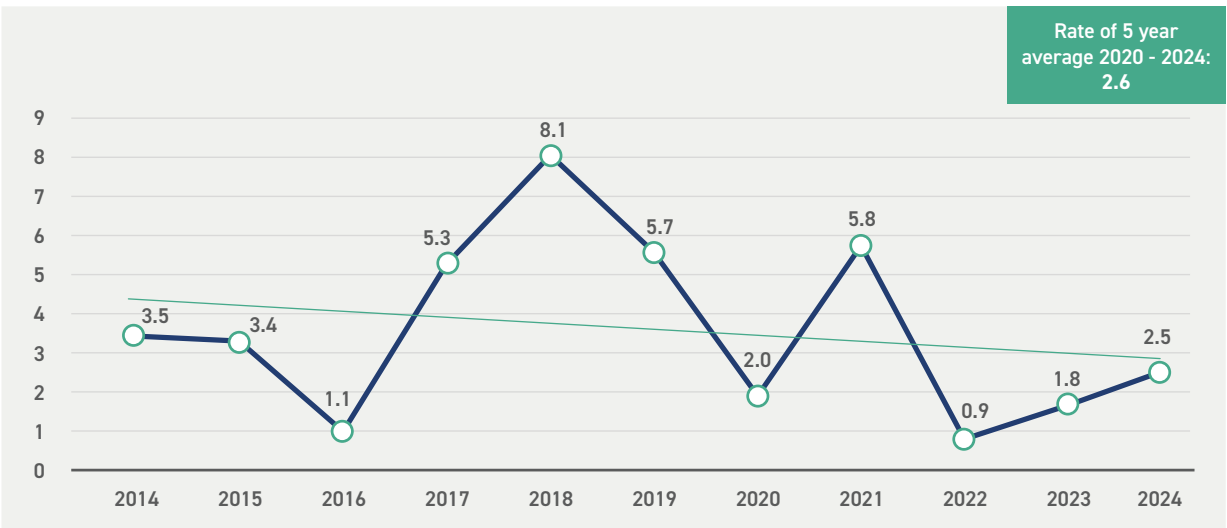
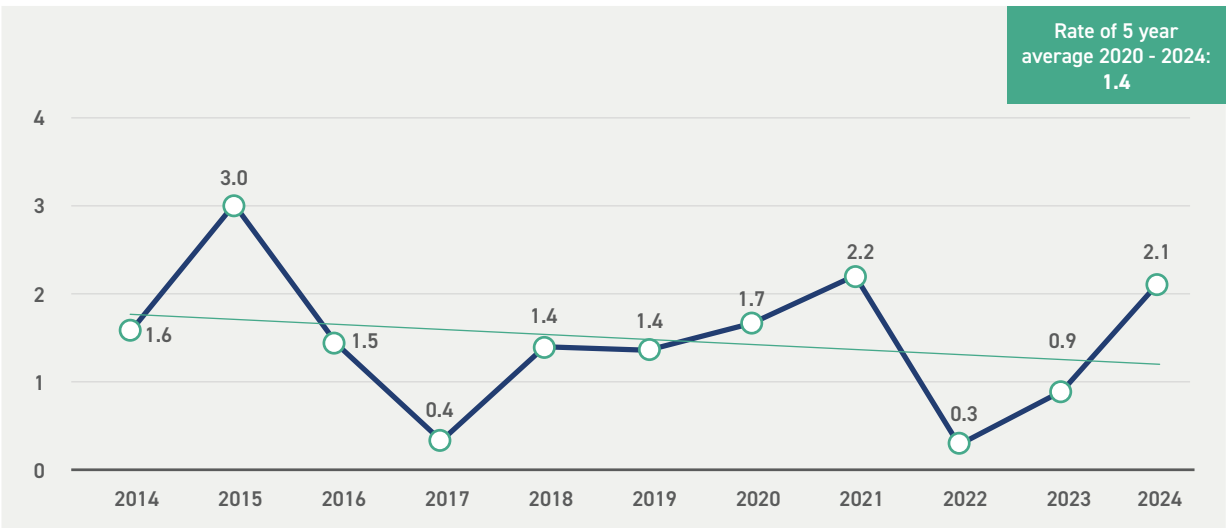


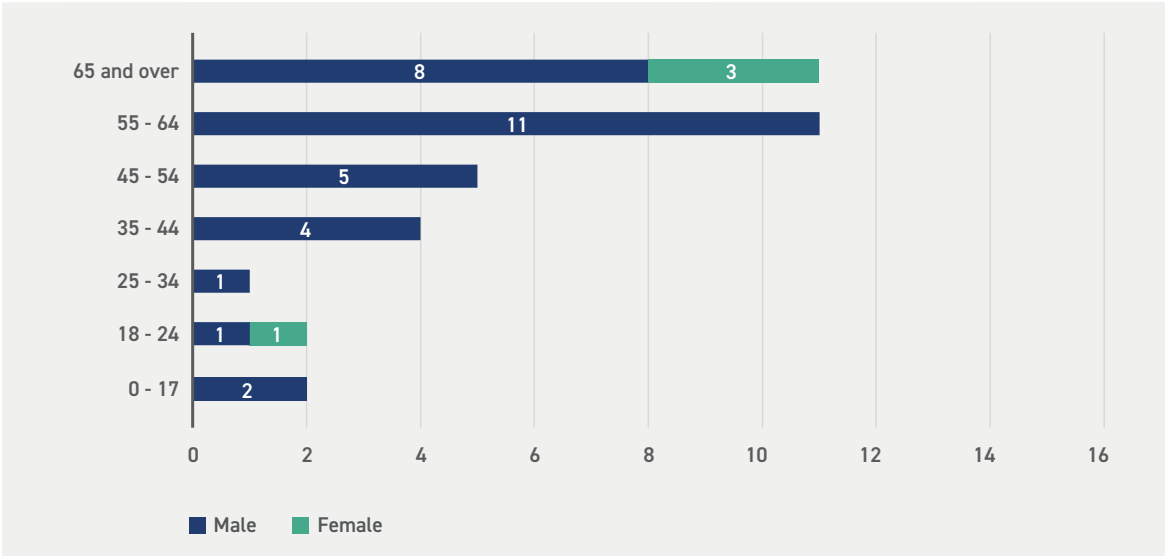
Figure 2.5d:

Rate of fatal work-related incidents per 100,000 workers in Industry, 2014–2024 (HSA)



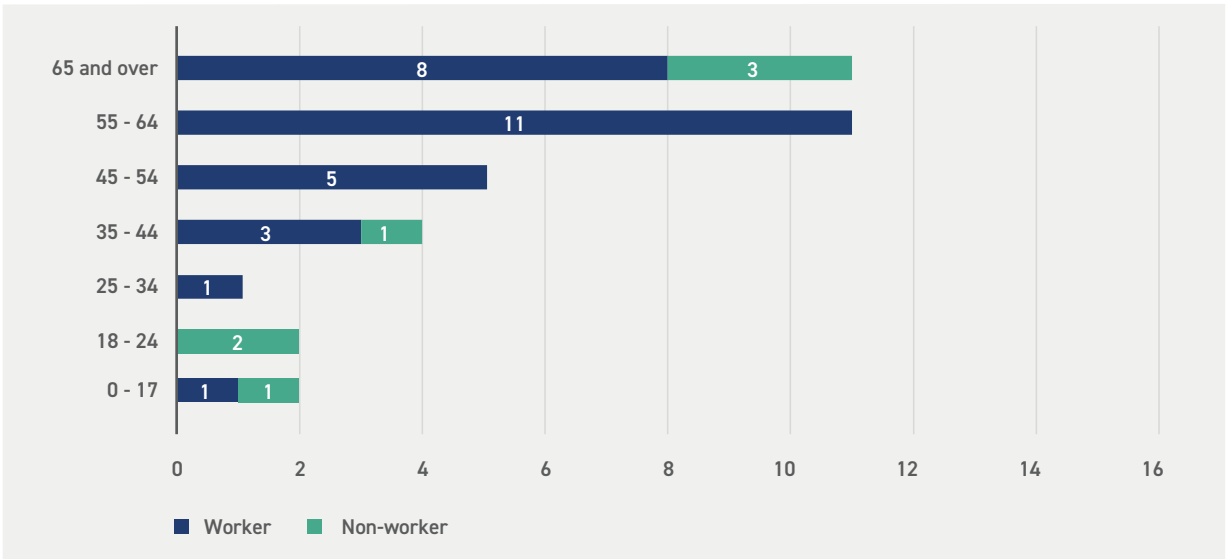
Of 36 fatal incidents in 2024, 32 (89%) occurred to male victims and four (11%) occurred to female victims. In 2024 all female victims were non-workers. There were two female victims in the Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities, and one female victim each in Transportation and Storage and Wholesale Retail and Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles. Figure 2.6 shows the age bands and gender of victims.

Figure 2.6:
Number of fatal work-related incidents by gender and age band, 2024 (HSA)



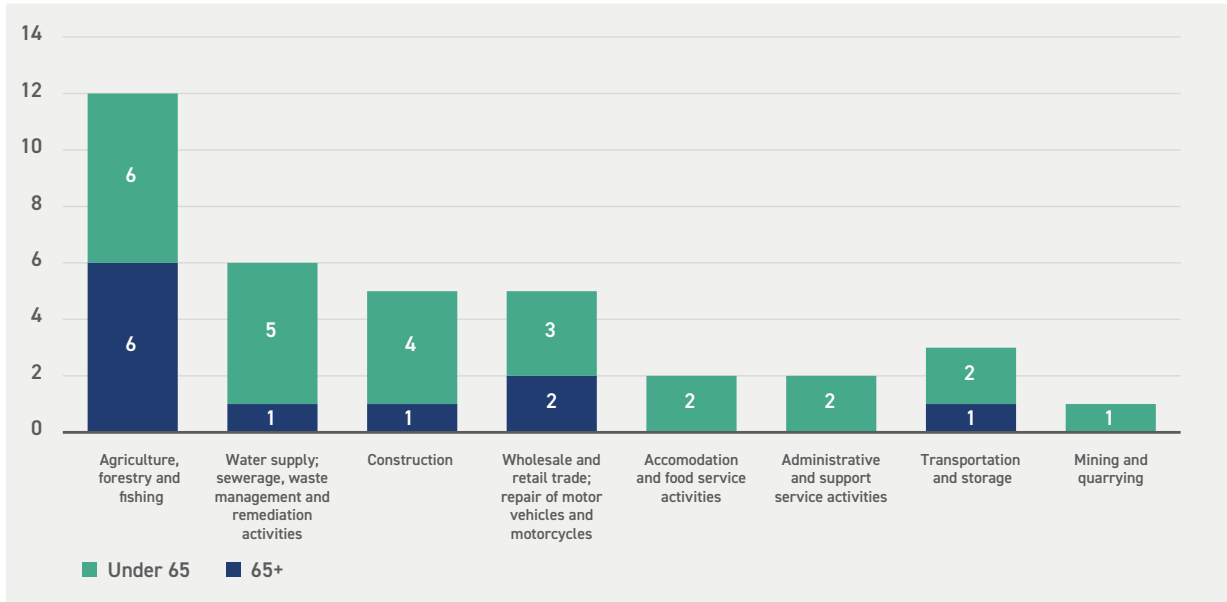
Over half of all fatal incidents involved victims aged 55 years or more, with 11 victims aged 55–64 years (31%) and 11 victims aged 65 years or more (31%). Seven fatal incidents occurred to non-workers in 2024; one was a child; two were aged 18-24 years, one was aged 35-44 years while three were over 65.

Figure 2.7:
Number of fatal work-related incidents to workers and non-workers by age band, 2024 (HSA)



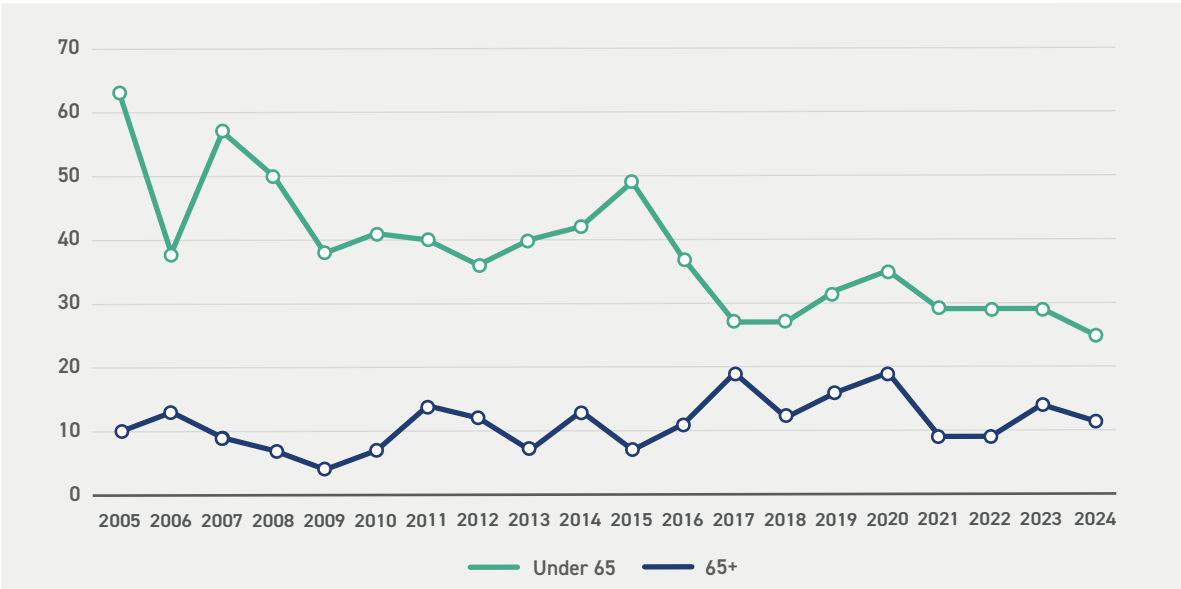
Of the 36 fatal incidents in 2024, 11 (31%) occurred to victims aged 65 years or more. This age group was particularly prominent in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, where 6 (50%) fatal incidents occurred to victims aged 65 years or more. For more details on the age of fatal incident victims in each economic sector, see Table 3.5 in the Appendix.

Figure 2.8:
Number of fatal work-related incidents in key NACE economic sectors involving victims aged under 65 years and 65 years or more, 2024 (HSA)



There has been a change in the average age of victims over time. Figure 2.9 shows the number of all fatal incidents occurring to victims aged 65 years or more over the past twenty years, reaching a high of 19 in 2017 and again in 2020. The number of fatal incidents to younger victims has declined from a high of 63 in 2005 to 25 in 2024.

Figure 2.9:
Number of fatal incidents occurring to victims aged 65 years or more each year, 2005–2024 (HSA)



Of the 36 fatal incidents in 2024, two victims were non-Irish, one of whom was a national of the European Union. In total, non-Irish workers accounted for 6% of fatalities in 2024 while this group represented 20% of the workforce in 2024.⁷

⁷ QLF47 - Persons aged 15 years and over in Employment.

The trigger is the abnormal event that causes an incident. The most common triggers associated with fatal incidents in 2024 were loss of control of transport or handling equipment (13) and falls (6, 5 of which were falls from height) which together accounted for over 50% of fatal incidents. The “Aggression, shock, violence” category represented 11% of fatalities last year. For details on triggers associated with fatal incidents in each NACE economic sector, see Table 3.7 of the Appendix.

In 2024, 18 of the 36 fatal incidents involved vehicles.⁸ Figure 2.11 shows the vehicles involved in these incidents. Trucks were involved in six fatal incidents (33% of all fatal incidents involving vehicles). The second most common vehicle involved in fatal incidents in 2024 were tractors, with three fatal incidents (17% of all fatal incidents involving vehicles).

Figure 2.10:

Top five triggers associated with fatal incidents, 2024 (HSA)

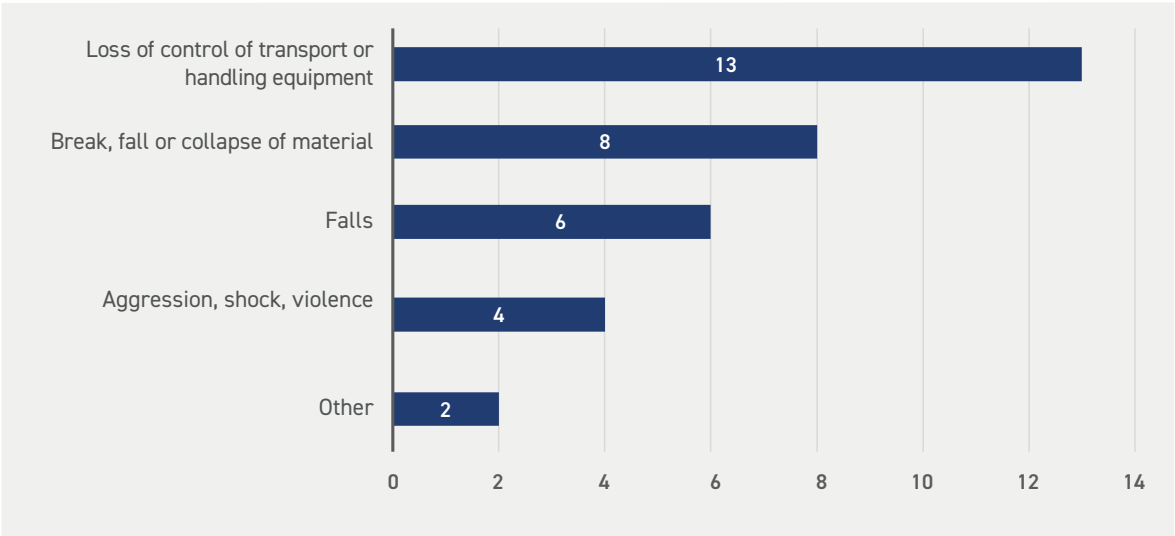
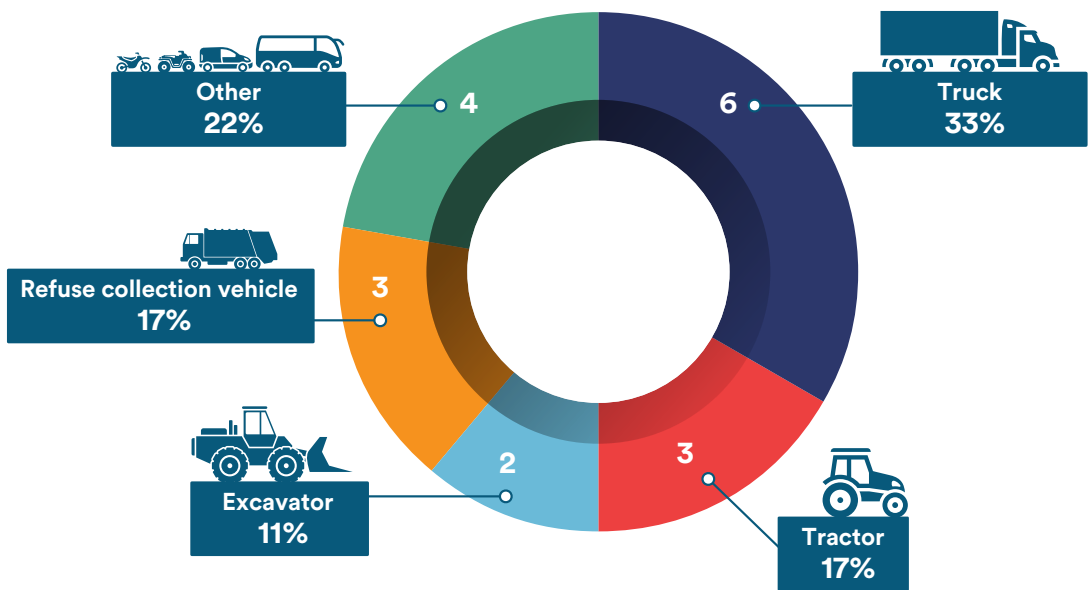


Figure 2.11:

Vehicles involved in fatal incidents, 2024 (HSA)



8 These include fatalities that occurred as a result of loss of control of vehicles and victims being struck or crushed by vehicles.



Appendix

Table 3.1:
Number and percentage of non-fatal incidents by trigger in selected economic sectors, 2024 (HSA)

	Industry		Construction		Wholesale and Retail		Transportation and Storage		Public Admin and Defence		Human Health and Social Work Activities	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Manual Handling (Internal injury)	627	36%	230	31%	502	43%	439	39%	208	47%	761	31%
Slipping, falling	371	21%	237	32%	315	27%	314	28%	202	16%	490	20%
Other triggers not listed	281	16%	74	10%	132	11%	79	7%	139	24%	533	22%
Loss of control of object, machine, vehicle etc.	296	17%	120	16%	108	9%	162	14%	121	4%	107	4%
Aggression, shock, violence	12	1%	4	1%	15	1%	61	5%	171	2%	392	16%
Break, fall or collapse of material	73	4%	44	6%	45	4%	29	3%	10	2%	37	2%
Body movement leads to cut, bruise (external injury)	29	2%	15	2%	13	1%	24	2%	7	4%	57	2%
Overflow, leak, emission	47	3%	8	1%	7	1%	11	1%	7	2%	31	1%
Accident trigger unknown	10	1%	3	0%	12	1%	3	0%	8	0%	11	0%
Electrical problem, explosion, fire	7	0%	7	1%	6	1%	4	0%	4	0%	9	0%
Total	1,753	100%	742	100%	1,155	100%	1,126	100%	877	100%	2,428	100%

Table 3.2:

Number and rate of people suffering injury and illness, 2017–2023 (CSO)

	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	#	Rate per 1,000	#	Rate per 1,000	#	Rate per 1,000	#	Rate per 1,000	#	Rate per 1,000	#	Rate per 1,000	#	Rate per 1,000
Total in employment	2,199,300		2,265,025		2,335,925		2,277,550		2,427,125		2,594,975		2,684,500	
Injury														
Total suffering injury	49,500	22.5	46,300	20.4	27,200	11.6	27,800	12.2	38,900	16.0	43,100	16.6	46,500	17.3
0–3 days' absence	26,100	11.9	40,100	17.7	15,300	6.5	16,600	7.3	22,500	9.3	22,700	8.7	25,100	9.3
4+ days' absence	22,500	10.2	29,500	13.0	12,100	5.2	11,300	5.0	16,400	6.8	20,300	7.8	21,400	8.0
Days lost due to injury	884,400		620,800		486,000		597,000		432,000		535,000		688,000	
Illness														
Total suffering illness	62,000	28.2	61,000	26.9	44,600	19.1	57,300	25.2	84,900	35.0	83,300	32.1	82,000	30.5
0–3 days' absence	32,200	14.6	31,200	13.8	23,800	10.2	27,300	12.0	32,200	13.3	26,700	10.3	34,400	12.8
4+ days' absence	29,800	13.5	29,800	13.2	20,800	8.9	30,000	13.2	52,700	21.7	56,500	21.8	47,600	17.7
Days lost due to illness	1,104,700		822,300		783,000		1,053,000		1,175,000		1,140,000		1,330,000	
Injury and illness														
Total injury or illness	111,500	50.7	107,300	47.4	71,800	30.7	85,100	37.4	123,800	51.0	1,264,000	48.7	128,500	47.9
Total (4+ days' absence)	52,300	23.8	59,300	26.2	32,900	14.1	41,300	18.1	69,100	28.5	76,800	29.6	69,000	25.7
Total days lost	1,989,100		1,443,100		1,269,000		1,650,000		1,607,000		1,675,000		2,018,000	

Table 3.3:

Number of reported fatal incidents to workers and non-workers by NACE economic sector, 2015–2024 (HSA)

Economic sector	Number of fatal incidents										Total
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2015-2024
A Agriculture, forestry and fishing	24	26	27	20	23	23	11	14	20	12	200
- Agriculture	18	21	25	15	20	20	10	14	16	12	171
- Forestry	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	5
- Fishing	5	4	2	4	3	3	0	0	3	0	24
B Mining and quarrying	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
C Manufacturing	3	2	0	2	2	4	5	0	1	0	19
D Electricity; gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
E Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	3	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	2	6	21
F Construction	11	10	6	5	12	16	10	7	10	5	92
G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and personal goods	3	2	3	2	2	4	2	11	2	5	36
H Transportation and storage	3	1	5	8	6	2	6	1	2	3	37
I Accommodation and food service activities	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	5
J Information and communication	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
K Financial and insurance activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
L Real estate activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M Professional, scientific and technical activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N Administrative and support service activities	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	2	8
O Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	4	1	5	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	13
P Education	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Q Human health and social work activities	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	5
R Arts, entertainment and recreation	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	5
S Other service activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	56	48	48	39	49	54	38	38	43	36	449

Table 3.4:

Number and rate of reported fatal incidents by NACE economic sector and employment status of victim, 2024 (HSA)

	Worker						Non-worker	Total	Fatality rate
	Employee	Self-employed	Family worker	Trainee	Total	Worker rate per 100,000			
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing (A)	1	11	0	0	12	11.1	0	12	11.1
Construction (F)	3	2	0	0	5	2.9	0	5	2.9
Administrative and support service activities (N)	1	1	0	0	2	1.2	0	2	1.9
Industry (Nace B-E)	3	1	0	0	4	1.2	3	7	2.1
Wholesale and Retail Trade (G)	1	3	0	0	4	0.8	1	5	1.5
Transportation and Storage (H)	1	0	0	0	1	0.8	2	3	2.5
Accommodation and food service activities (I)	1	0	0	0	1	0.5	1	2	1.1
Total	11	18	0	0	29	1.1	7	36	1.3

Table 3.5:

Number of reported fatal incidents by NACE economic sector and age band of victim, 2024 (HSA)

	0-17 years	18-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65+ years	Total
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing (A)	0	0	0	0	2	4	6	12
Mining and Quarrying (B)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (E)	1	1	0	1	0	2	1	6
Construction (F)	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	5
Wholesale and Retail Trade (G)	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	5
Transportation and Storage (H)	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
Accommodation and Food Service Activities (I)	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Administrative and support service activities (N)	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Total	6%	6%	3%	11%	14%	31%	31%	100%
	2	2	1	4	5	11	11	36

Table 3.6:

Reported worker fatal incident rates per 100,000 workers by nationality, 2016–2024 (HSA)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Irish workers	1.9	2.2	1.3	1.9	2.0	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.2
Non Irish workers	3.2	0.6	2.5	1.3	0.8	0.7	0.2	1.2	0.4
All Workers	2.1	1.9	1.5	1.9	1.8	1.4	1.1	1.5	1.1

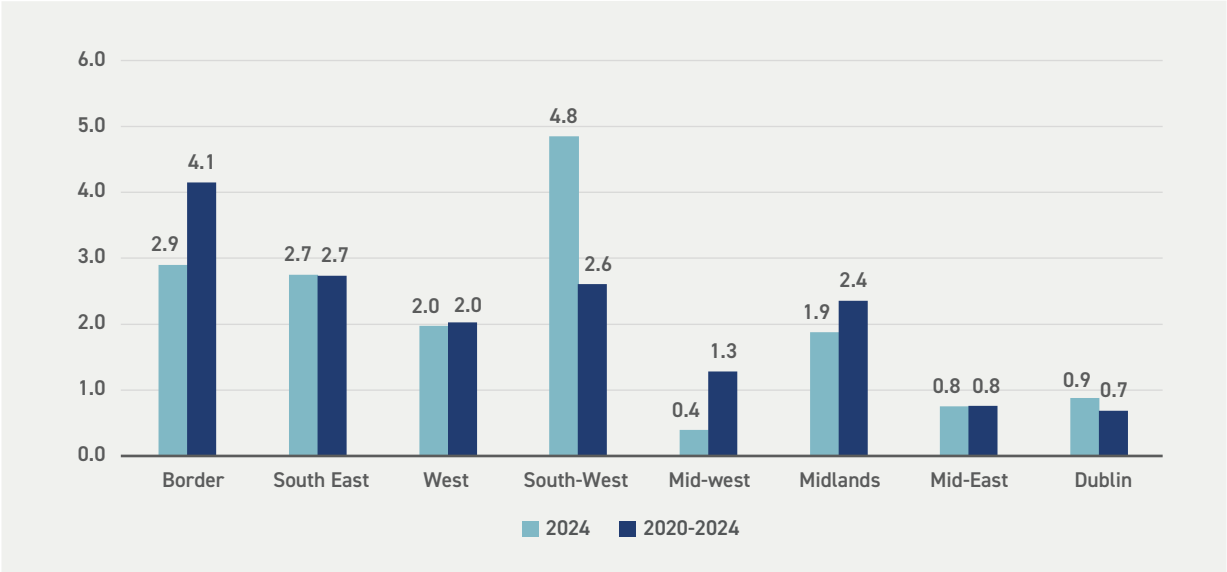
Table 3.7:

Number of reported fatal incidents by NACE economic sector and trigger, 2024 (HSA)

	Accommodation and food service activities	Administrative and support service activities	Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	Construction	Mining and quarrying	Transportation and Storage	Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	Wholesale and Retail Trade	Total	% of total
Aggression, shock, violence	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	4	11%
Break, fall or collapse of material	0	1	3	0	1	1	1	1	8	22%
Electrical problem, explosion, fire	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	6%
Loss of control of object, machine etc.	0	1	3	3	0	2	2	2	13	36%
Overflow, leak, emission	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3%
Slipping, falling	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	1	6	17%
Other	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	6%
Total	2	2	12	5	1	3	6	5	36	100%

Figure 3.1:

Rate of reported fatal incidents per 100,000 workers by NUTS region in 2024 and five-year average 2020–2024 (HSA)



Notes

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